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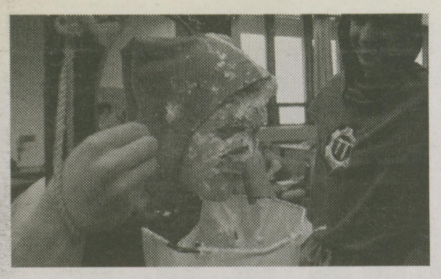


Order of Pi creams on your face
Page 4

Surprisingly, not porn:
Ronin Office Ladies
Page 15

Getting your fingers sticky for 58 years.

MARTLET

Thursday, March 9, 2006 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca | Volume 58, Issue 24

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI, JEFFREY WESTON ILLUSTRATION

UVSS ELECTIONS

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

HERE'S WHERE AND WHEN:

• POLLING STATIONS • MARCH 8•9•10•

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8

Clearihue	9:00 - 7:00
Commons	5:00 - 7:00
David Strong	10:00 - 2:00
Eng. Lab Wing	9:00 - 4:00
Fine Arts	11:00 - 3:00
Library	9:00 - 8:00
McKinnon	10:00 - 2:00
SUB	9:00 - 6:00
University Centre	11:00 - 3:00

THURSDAY MARCH 9

Clearihue	9:00 - 4:00
Commons	5:00 - 7:00
Cornett	10:00 - 2:00
David Strong	12:00 - 4:00
Elliot	10:00 - 4:00
Fraser	10:00 - 2:00
Human & Soc. Dev.	9:00 - 3:00
Library	9:00 - 8:00
MacLaurin	9:00 - 5:00
SUB	9:00 - 6:00
University Centre	11:00 - 3:00

FRIDAY MARCH 10

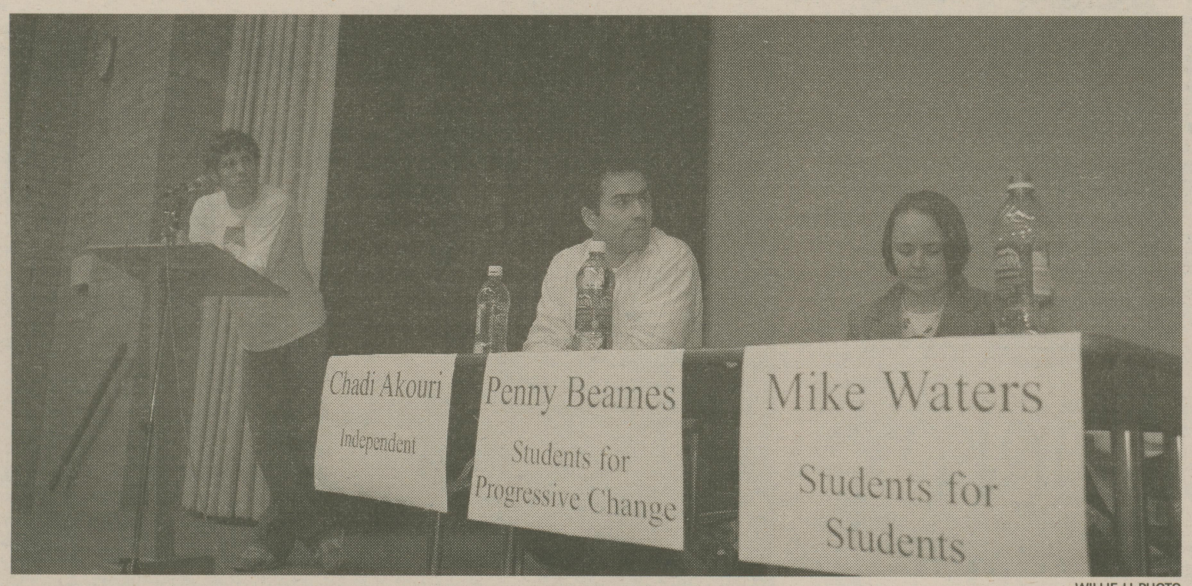
Clearihue	9:00 - 4:00
Commons	9:00 - 1:00
Cornett	10:00 - 2:00
Elliot	1:00 - 4:00
Eng. Lab Wing	9:00 - 4:00
Fraser	10:00 - 2:00
Library	9:00 - 4:00
MacLaurin	11:00 - 4:00
SUB	10:00 - 4:00

UVSS ELECTIONS

• local dj's (and mc's) • beverage garden •
• an old school throw-down in support of this year's student elections•
• thursday march 9 • *12 - 5* • outside student union building•

Martlet hosts heated debate between UVSS chair candidates

by Kate Webb



WILLIE LI PHOTO

Candidates for UVSS chair, from left: Mike Waters, Chadi Akouri and Penny Beames.

Disability rights and the fate of Vertigo were the hot topics at a March 7 debate between the candidates running for chair in this week's UVic Students Society (UVSS) election.

Incumbent Penny Beames, a member of the slate Students for Progressive Change, defended her position against Students for Students candidate Mike Waters and independent candidate Chadi Akouri. *Martlet* editor-in-chief Bryna Hallam put forward platform-specific questions to each candidate, and each of the others in the three-way race had the chance to respond.

"What new ideas do you have for making Vertigo a revenue source?" Hallam asked Waters, sparking the first heated debate.

Vertigo is a student space in the SUB that was originally opened as a nightclub in 1997, but was unofficially closed by the UVSS in 2002 due to a succession of profit losses. Since then the room has been used as a student space during the day, and clubs and course unions can use the space for free events twice a month at no cost.

Anyone wanting to use the room for a revenue-generating event can rent it and get a license to sell drinks for $1,000. If, however, a club or course union wants to hold an event there and sell tickets, they can make a presentation to the UVSS board and get the $1,000 fee waived—a fact of which Waters was apparently unaware.

"The thing with Vertigo is, it's $1,000 if you want to use it," began Waters in response to Hallam's question. He suggested the space be made cheaper so that clubs and course unions can afford to hold events there and generate revenue by selling tickets.

Akouri jumped in next, drawing on his experience as a UVSS director at large to inform Waters the fee is necessary to cover the basic event costs of getting a license for alcohol sales, and paying those who have to work the event and clean up.

But it was Beames who brought up the opportunity clubs and course unions have to get the fee waived, essentially rendering Waters' first point moot.

"Being the current chair, you might want to better advertise that Vertigo is free [to clubs and course unions]," retorted Waters, bringing the debate back to his criticism that this year's UVSS board has not effectively reached out to student groups on campus. After all, Waters said, he has served as the vice president of the UVic Engineering Students' Society and has never been told there was a potentially free venue on campus for student fundraising events.

Hallam's next question only exacerbated the apparent rivalry between Waters and Beames. It brought to light the current chair's plan to table a controversial motion at that night's regularly scheduled UVSS meeting.

"You are bringing a motion to this evening's UVSS meeting regarding exam accommodations for student with disabilities and S-Hut," Hallam began, addressing Beames. "This has been an concern of students with disabilities for quite some time. Why is this issue only being addressed now?"

The issue at hand was one Access UVic, a campus advocacy group for students with disabilities, has been concerned about all year. Students with disabilities needing special accommodations during exams have been sent to the squat, grey hut on the fringe of campus known as S-Hut, and have often complained about noise in the building as well as heating issues in the winter and a lack of wheelchair access to the washrooms.

Beames' initial response to the question was a reiteration of what was already known—that she had taken note of Access's complaint and was planning on tabling a motion at an upcoming meeting to see if space can be found in the SUB for students with disabilities to write their exams.

"[UVic's] Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities will often send staff home so students can write in their offices [during exam periods]," she said, expressing her desire to solve the problem in both the short term and the long term. Beames admitted, though, that she has known about the problem since last summer.

"I'm just curious to know why it was brought up during election week . . . if you knew about it in the summer," fired Waters.

Akouri echoed Waters' sentiment, saying, "I do question why it was brought up now."

When Beames took the podium to respond, her answer was short and vague.

"I think my response is only one question," she said. "Why is there a group of students advocating on behalf of students with disabilities under a chair [candidate] who campaigned last year vehemently against advocacy group funding and funding for groups like VIPIRG and UVSP?"

The chair candidate she was referring to, she later clarified, was Waters.

Since the debate Waters has filed a formal complaint with the UVSS Elections office, alleging Beames' attack on him was "completely unacceptable."

"None of my campaigns from the 2005 UVSS General Election stated this [that I wanted to reduce funding for advocacy groups], nor did I ever campaign on such a terrible idea," he wrote in his complaint. "This was a fabricated response aimed at grabbing the *Martlet* headlines and aimed at deliberately misleading students."

Chief Electoral Officer Ben Johnson said March 8 that the complaint is being investigated.

The three candidates closed the debate by summing up their platforms and clarifying their priorities for the 20 odd people who turned out to watch the verbal spar (for the record, only 12 of those in attendance were not connected to any of the campaigns).

Beames went first, and spoke about the importance of accessible education being about "more than just financial accessibility." Waters readjusted that sentiment, saying that "university should be more than education—it should be an experience." And Akouri chided them both for bringing up the "same old rhetoric over and over again," bringing up the importance of building a comprehensive community between all the student groups on campus.

"It's not a party campus. We can't just party all night long," he said in response to Waters' closing speech. "Social justice is just as important."

Polling in the UVSS election began March 8 and will continue until 4 p.m. on March 10. UVic undergraduate students can vote at any polling station on campus provided they show their student ID.

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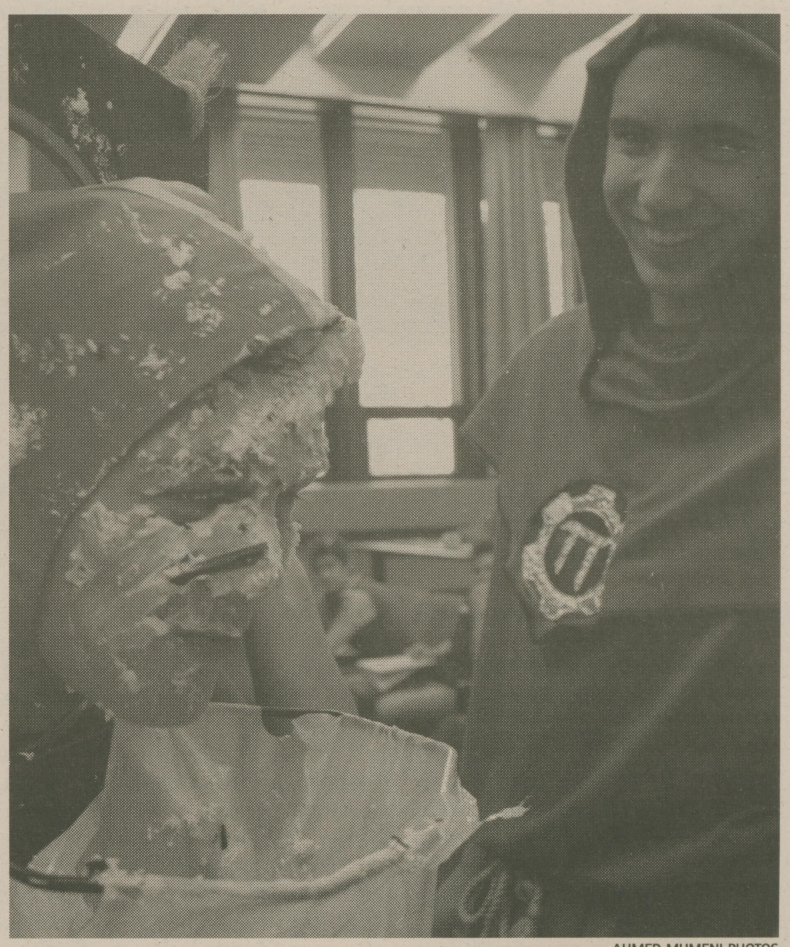

AHMED MUMENI PHOTOS

Compliant victims get "pied" for charity by members of the Order of Pi, a "mysterious order of medieval monks", March 7.

by Spencer Kelly

The Engineering Students' Society (ESS) is causing trouble this week, and students should beware—from Monday to Friday, a wrathful pie-in-the-face could await any of us.

"The Order of Pi" is a quasi-sinister event hosted by a "mysterious order of medieval monks" each year for charity. Between $2,000 and $3,000 is typically raised annually for charities such as the Queen Alexandra Centre For Children's Health and The Mustard Seed Foundation.

The procedure goes a little something like this: an "accuser" contacts the pie dispatcher at the ESS and provides a $10 bond, a name, a place, and a time for the accused to "stand trial." At the scheduled time and place, the accused person's master inquisitor and fearsome brethren appear. There is chanting. Fear.

If the accused fails to raise the accuser's donation by $5, a pie is "firmly but gently placed into the face of the condemned."

This is the 13th year of the Order of Pi, whose early forms were germinated at the University of Saskatchewan in 1993. Each subsequent year has contributed to the tightening force of terror, now a tradition in Victoria during National Engineering Week.

Once, the UVic team was contracted to do an on-air "pie-ing" at local radio station The Ocean. This year the team has already done a similar gig on CH TV.

"Pie-ing" has been a convention in comedy since the 1930s. Famous pies-in-the-face include the one Bill Gates got hit with in 1998, and the one a protester hit then-Prime Minister Jean Chrétien with in 2000.

Pie-ing has become a symbol in our culture of humility and good humour. "The Order of Pi" is careful to make sure its targets are lighthearted, and do not get too messy. The in-class pie-ing of professors is now done only with permission.

When asked if the pie-ings are fun, Lisanne Prince, this year's grand inquisitor, responded, "Oh god, yeah."

The Order of Pi will do about six pie-ings each day this week. The one they say is the most fun is the pie-ing of Victoria mayor Adam Lowe, which could occur for the 12th time this year. The high-profile pie-ings are where the money is at, sometimes grossing up to $260, Prince said.

To get involved with the pie-ing fun, phone the ESS's Order of Pi at 721-8822, or e-mail them at pi@engr.uvic.ca.

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CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 16 article "Safe in the city" we mistakenly referred to UVic's Safewalk program as WalkSafe. UVic's program, run by Campus Security, is not connected in any way to the downtown WalkSafe Victoria program started by student Daniel Gray. UVic's Safewalk can be utilized by calling 721-7599. For more information, please see http://web.uvic.ca/security.

In the March 2 article "African-born politician and movie star a separatist" we mistakenly referred to Quebec MP Maka Kotto as Canada's first African-born Member of Parliament. Kotto is not Canada's first African-born MP, but is Canada's first Cameroonian-born MP.

We apologize for the errors.

UVic associate aids in tsunami reconstruction efforts

Co-operatives can aid in peace process and development in disaster-struck province of Aceh, says Robby Tulus

by Kim Armstrong

PROVIDED PHOTO

The Indonesian province of Aceh was the closest piece of land to the epicentre of the earthquake that rocked Southeast Asia in 2004.

More than a year after the sea rose up and sent waves crashing more than seven kilometres inland, the people of Aceh, Indonesia are still struggling to rebuild their homes and their lives.

Robby Tulus, an associate at UVic's Centre for Asian Pacific Initiatives and citizen of both Canada and Indonesia, was in Jakarta when the tsunami struck. He travelled to Aceh after meeting up with friends from the region, one of whom had lost 85 family members to the tsunami.

Once there he was hired by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) as its special envoy "to undertake an assessment, and to develop a program, based on a long term co-operative reconstruction plan in Aceh," Tulus explained in a Feb. 17 lecture at UVic.

Aceh (pronounced "Ah-cheh") is a special territory/province on the southern tip of the island of Sumatra. It was the closest point of land to the epicenter of the quake that caused the tsunami on Dec. 26, 2004, and suffered extensive damage as a result.

It was left with no functioning government, and only two-thirds of its 4,312 villages. It lost 5,800 kilometres of road, 490 bridges and 1,150 schools. Over 200,000 people were killed, and 500,000 more were left homeless.

Reconstruction has been slow, and today more than 50,000 people are still living in tents. Part of the reason for this lag, Tulus said, is that there is no local sense of urgency. Government apathy, corruption and bureaucratic red tape have resulted in a stagnation of funds. Of the $4.9 billion US pledged in international aid, only $1.3 billion US has been distributed.

"This is not a funding issue," Tulus said. "The money is there, but the program corrodes. . . . There is no sense of crisis—it's business as usual."

The second reason he gave is that aid organizations, although enthusiastic, were uncoordinated in their initial rush to help, resulting in "lots of work duplication, confusing local people and making them [the] object rather than [the] subject of redevelopment. People were made dependent and passive."

Stepping in where disaster relief aid leaves off, the ICA is focusing on the development of reconstruction programs and forming co-operatives for distribution, agriculture and fisheries—something they have been planning for since early 2005.

"Sustainability is a key element in any co-op development work. But sustainability takes a long time to attain, and must be based on a systematic and strategic reconstruction plan," Tulus said. "International and local disaster relief agencies could do a better job during the emergency period [than we could]."

Dr. Ian MacPherson, of the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies at UVic, said that co-ops—businesses owned and operated by the people who use them—could be beneficial in Aceh because "there is a history of co-operatives in that area. It isn't like it would be something foreign and new."

Reconstruction must also account for the added complication of Aceh's embattled history.

An independence struggle between the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and Indonesian military ravaged the region for nearly three decades leading up to the tsunami. Hostilities, which reached fever pitch in 2003 with a declaration of martial law, had led to widespread human rights abuses, civilian displacement and a thriving drug trade. The tsunami crisis led to a ceasefire, and a peace agreement was signed in August 2005.

"Now that the peace deal is in place, co-ops are at the forefront of helping the ex-combatants and militias in their desire to be reintegrated into the communities where co-ops subsist," said Tulus.

"Co-op work is not complete and holistic if we do not take peace and democracy into the reconstruction process."

MacPherson also said that co-ops help to unify communities.

"[They] can be useful in overcoming differences and working together in a common goal," he said. There are drawbacks, however.

"They're not easy to organize. They require co-operation from people, and require some funding." Co-ops often require outside aid to help them overcome organizational and financial hurdles, MacPherson explained.

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THE MONKEY TREE PUB

Canadian doctor reminds us the AIDS epidemic is not going away

by Matthew Gauk

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Dr. James Orbinski spoke at UVic about barriers to humanitarian efforts around the world March 4.

A Canadian doctor who accepted the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the world's largest independent humanitarian organization got a rock-star welcome at UVic March 4.

Dr. James Orbinksi took the stage at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium on Saturday night, speaking to an enthusiastic capacity crowd. At 39, Orbinski became the president of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF). He has a 15-year track record of providing humanitarian aid all over the world, in places like Peru, Somalia, Afghanistan, Zaire, and Rwanda, often during times of civil war and famine.

Orbinski's life was changed when he earned a fellowship to study infectious diseases in Africa. Upon returning, he and a few friends started a MSF chapter in Canada. Orbinski remained with the group until a few years ago, and he now speaks independently.

"The humanitarian ethos requires courage, choice and a recognition of its limits," said Orbinski, citing figures that show 15 per cent of the world's population goes to bed hungry every night.

The doctor recounted an episode he witnessed in Somalia that epitomized the types of practices he believes humanitarians must continue to rail against.

In a place known as the "City of Death," Orbinski visited a MSF feeding centre, around which stood a sea of hungry people waiting for grey, sloppy gruel. There was one tent that served as a hospital and three others for morgues. Orbinski saw movement on top of a pile of bodies and took the dying person into the medical tent, where an aid worker angrily told him that they had put the man on the pile of bodies because there was nothing they could do for him.

"I raged at the efficiency of placing the dying among the dead," said Orbinski. "It's probably one of the most egregious forms of a lack of humanity."

Another limit to humanitarianism is that only states have formal legitimacy and power on the world stage, Orbinski said. Global health can be impacted not only by infectious diseases, but also by war, lack of access to drugs, the effects of climate change, Third World debt, and the displacement of peoples. There comes a point where problems become so massive that individual action is not enough and government action becomes imperative, he said. The actions of an engaged citizenship, he argued, can motivate governments to take the necessary steps to end suffering.

"We must demand from our governments that this is more than mere rhetoric," Orbinski said. "It's not about ribbons or a few bucks, but calling your MP or going to their office."

Governments' failure to deal with the AIDS epidemic is made obvious by the scale of the death tolls, and the numbers continue to rise, the doctor added. He used the example of one village in Malawi, where 33 per cent of the children are orphaned from AIDS and have to live on the kindness of the remaining adults, many of whom have AIDS. Even if we "do the right things," said Orbinski, there will still be one million AIDS orphans growing up in Malawi alone, out of a current overall population of 12 million.

Orbinski places the blame on corporations, governments, and international economic organizations due to the patent protection of life-saving pharmaceuticals, poor funding of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the failure of governments to live up to their promises of Third World aid.

MSF has started a coalition to counter these failures and address the AIDS epidemic. They have been working towards increasing access to essential medicines and treatment procedures by pooling procurement of generic drugs and trying to bring the prices down.

"The point here is for not-for-profits to demonstrate that alternatives are possible, and to insist that those alternatives are taken up by the public and private sectors," Orbinski said.

This lack of anti-retroviral drugs is compounded by a lack of medical professionals in some of the hardest hit areas of the world. For 12 million Malawians, there are about 100 doctors. Orbinski blames a brain drain of talent from places like Malawi to places like Canada.

"The current health care system [in Sub-Saharan Africa] is a shadow, and it's on the verge of collapse," said Orbinski. "We will never solve the AIDS crisis until the poaching of human resources from the South stops."

But the Western world will ultimately pay the price as well if it keeps ignoring the AIDS epidemic, Orbinski warned.

"The failure to deal with AIDS in the developing world leads to the spread of it and other diseases," said Orbinski. "It's not a question of if but when and how bad."

Avian flu, or H5N1, is the prime suspect for this hypothetical future epidemic.

Orbinski said that while the West has been buying its way out of the AIDS crisis through public health spending, there is no way to buy or talk our way out of an epidemic like bird flu. Drugs like Tamiflu, an anti-flu medicine, can provide a false sense of security.

"Today public health means global health," said Orbinski. "That's the only way to fight epidemics like H5N1."

The best way to reach people with this message is to make them understand through storytelling the reality of other people's lives, to help them see the relationship between "over there" and here, said Orbinski.

"One sees the sameness of self in another in these situations. Failure to do so makes a person less than what they can be."

Elsie Chan and **Susan Huntley Elderkin** each hold awards for Excellence in Teaching from the University of Victoria. They are just two of the more than 500 highly qualified sessional instructors teaching the bulk of UVic undergraduate students.

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CUPE On the front line

UVic students tackle HIV/AIDS education in refugee camps

by Norman Ed Baskerville

Over a four-month period, UVic students Ashley Heaslip and Logan Cochrane will actively promote HIV/AIDS education and organize training facilities in four refugee camps in the sub-Saharan African countries of Tanzanian and Benin.

"Progress with WTE is going very well, we are currently making plans for the next two years and the projects in Uganda and Nigeria are growing rapidly with overseas volunteers," said Cochrane, who founded the non-governmental organization Working to Empower (WTE) last year.

WTE is a Victoria-based organization structured around the belief that all people have the right to empower themselves and their communities to create lasting and positive change.

"This project is not about altruism, it is about empowerment," said Heaslip.

She explained that at the end of each two-week training session, young men and women from the refugee camps will be certified as "community activators" who will go on to train others in their communities.

"Working to Empower has made a commitment to ensuring that our projects are both sustainable and responsible," said Heaslip.

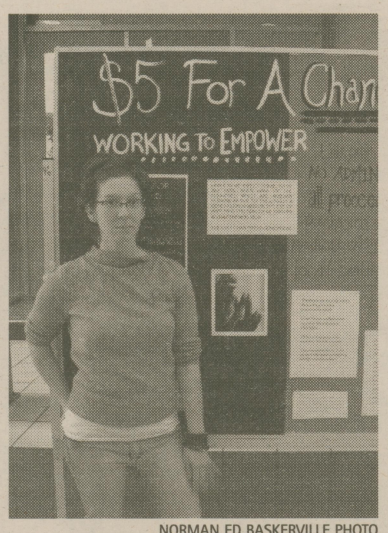
Cochrane has been in Africa since January and will continue to facilitate HIV/AIDS education and information training sessions for young men. Heaslip will travel to Africa to co-ordinate the Maternal Health component of WTE's 2006 HIV/AIDS project beginning in May.

Heaslip said about half of each of her two-week training sessions will focus particularly on informing women about maternal health issues, like child nutrition and basic sanitation, while the rest of her efforts will be spent explaining the biology of HIV/AIDS and how they can protect themselves.

"They're two separate session components, but they're both critical in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS," said Heaslip.

The projected cost of the 2006 project is $19,000 US. Heaslip and Cochrane are paying for their own travel and living costs while in Africa. WTE is too small to receive government funding, and raises money through donations and fundraisers.

"Our largest problem is funding: currently WTE cannot issue tax-receipts and this makes the fundraising process more difficult. Adding to this is that we have rising costs with attempting to fund treatments, because this is very costly," said Cochrane.



NORMAN ED BASKERVILLE PHOTO

Ashley Heaslip is going to work on HIV/AIDS projects in Africa.

A new WTE component, which has not yet been adequately funded, is the anti-retroviral mother-to-child-transmission project. The anti-retroviral medication the two students want to purchase and distribute reduces the risk of HIV-positive, pregnant women transmitting the virus to their unborn children.

On March 10, WTE will put on a benefit concert at Steamers Brew Pub, called $5 For a Chance. The proceeds from the ticket sales will go directly to the purchase of anti-retroviral treatment medication.

The medication will be purchased from health centres in Tanzania and Benin and administered by local physicians.

"All medications will be bought in-country for two reasons," said Heaslip. "To show local persons that they can buy them there and to bolster their economy."

While in Tanzania, Heaslip and Cochrane are both looking forward to learning from and working with Dr. Jane Goodall at her Roots & Shoots program, which is using environmental conservation to promote HIV/AIDS awareness.

While others may see her efforts as special, Heaslip doesn't see Cochrane, herself, or even Goodall as having more compassion than anybody else.

"If you want to get involved and create positive change, find an issue you are passionate about, educate yourself on it, and work to educate others. That is all that we are doing here," said Heaslip.

Although only 21, Heaslip already has hands on experience empowering people with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), particularly through her 2004 internship in Malawi, Africa, where she spent two months working and researching HIV/AIDS and primary education.

According to the World Health Organization, over 23 million adults and children in Sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to be living with HIV or AIDS, 60 per cent of whom are women.

"AIDS is not an African issue," said Heaslip. "It is a global issue—there is no 'us' and 'them,' there is only a 'we.'"

Working to Empower is looking for volunteers to assist with the program from Victoria. Please contact Ashley Heaslip at ashleyh@workingtoempower.org if you are interested in getting involved.

Those interested in attending WTE's $5 For a Chance benefit concert can purchase tickets in advance for $5 by e-mailing Heaslip, or get tickets at the door for $8 at Steamers Brew Pub, 570 Yates St. on March 10. The doors open at 9 p.m.

B.C. budget offers little to post-secondary students

by Bryna Hallam

The B.C. government's new budget's focus on children does not extend to post-secondary students.

Released on Feb. 21, the budget "has some good news for students, but not a whole lot for students overall," said Lisa MacLeod, B.C. chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Among the good news, said MacLeod, is an increase of about $26 million in core funding and maintenance of a cap on tuition fee increases to the rate of inflation for the remaining three years of the Liberals' term.

"We were hoping for a reduction in tuition fees, but it's a good sign that they've made a commitment to this [the cap] and they've attached some funding to it," she said.

Tuition fees have nearly doubled in the province since 2001, when the Liberal government ended a six-year freeze on tuition fees. Average tuition fees in B.C. are $4,874 for 2005–06.

The budget features a total of $161 million in new funds for post-secondary education over the next four years. Of that, $145 million is additional operating funding to help create 25,000 new student spaces by 2010.

The government is also focusing on increasing skills training.

"We have listened to the calls of industry to offer more creative incentives to encourage skills training," said Finance Minister Carole Taylor during the budget speech. "So today, Budget 2006 allocates $90 million in tax credits over three years to encourage business to be part of the solution, and help government meet the challenge of training our workforce—in both our traditional sectors and emerging industries."

MacLeod acknowledged the need for more skilled workers, but said they were looking for "a more comprehensive strategy" to address the issue.

According to MacLeod, enrolment at colleges in B.C. has declined over the past few years, and completion rates of skilled trades and apprenticeship programs are down 44 per cent since 2001—trends she attributes to increased tuition.

"I think it's a pretty clear parallel to draw," she said. "Tuition fees are going up, enrolment is declining, and so we really need the government to do something to create access."

Other groups, notably the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC (CUFA/BC) and the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC (FPSE), have echoed that view.

Cindy Oliver, president of FPSE, expressed her disappointment in the budget, saying "the most disturbing part of this budget for post-secondary students is the absence of any help for students."

CUFA/BC issued a report card on the government's post-secondary performance; they earned grades in the C to B+ range.

The group also criticized the government for its failure to develop an effective student financial assistance system to increase access to education, noting that despite increased funding, less money is going to student assistance now than in 2003–04.

On the positive side, they said the "future looks promising" in terms of creating more spaces for students.

Other spending announced in the budget includes one-time investments to create a new World Centre for Digital Media Education and a new Natural Resources and Applied Science endowment. Funding for those projects totals $50 million and $40.5 million respectively.

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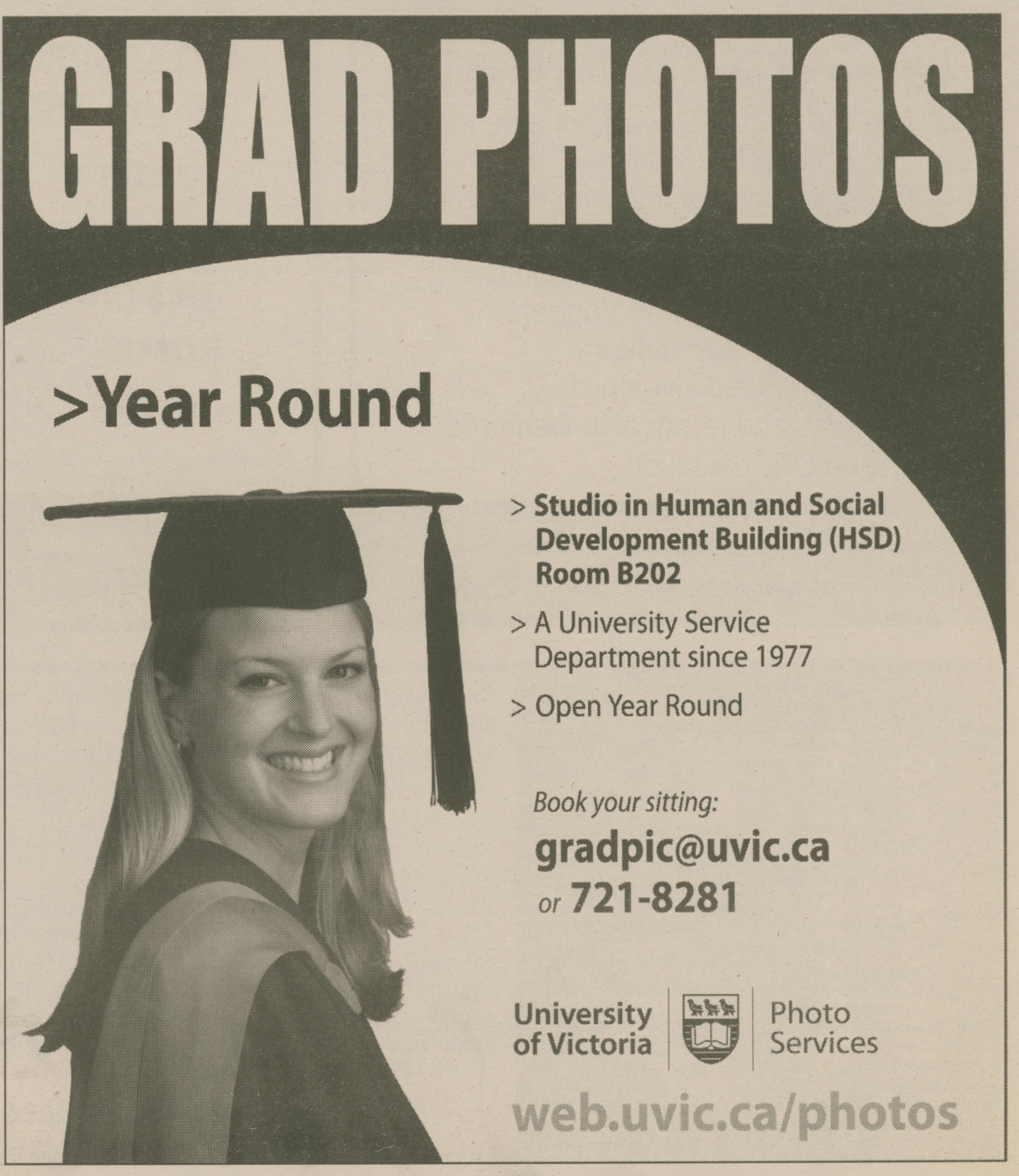

Local innovator designs portable homeless shelter

by David Karp

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI PHOTO

Tony Hoar (right) with some owners of his portable shelters at UVic's Sustainable Transportation Showcase March 1.

Police in Cairo, Egypt contacted Vancouver Island's Tony Hoar recently.

"[They wanted] a trailer for six police dogs," explained Hoar, a former professional cyclist who now builds custom bike trailers and wheelchairs.

"It's interesting work and it keeps your brain active," he said. The trailer maker was on campus for UVic's Sustainable Transportation Showcase March 1.

Hoar, who celebrated his 74th birthday last week, started building handmade trailers for bikes and wheelchairs a few years ago. Since then, he has turned it into a full-time job, building anywhere from two to 10 trailers each month while promoting his company, Tony's Trailers.

But it's Hoar's latest trailer—as yet unnamed—that has brought him international attention. The compact trailer attaches to the back of a bicycle, and folds out into a tent. The portable residence is designed as a shelter for working homeless people, and has recently been featured in the *Globe and Mail*, the *Times Colonist*, and magazines in Britain, Italy and the Netherlands.

"They actually work hard 'binning,' as they call it, collecting bottles and cans. And they won't go into the shelters—no matter how cold it is," said Hoar of the clients for whom his latest product was designed. "They shepherd them into a shelter before eight o'clock at night, and they kick them out at six in the morning—it's just inhuman, I think."

Terry Richards is just one of the people Hoar's new trailers have helped.

"I was pushing a shopping car, and Tony pulled over and said 'Can I show you something?'" he remembered. Hoar gave Richards the trailer, and he loves it.

"I'd rather be in one of those and be self-sufficient than be on welfare living in a shelter," said Richards, a self-described binner. "I'd be sleeping in doorways if I didn't have the trailer. Everyone I've met wants one." There is one major setback surrounding the trailers, however. They cost roughly $750 each—a steep price for most homeless people to pay.

"We have a sponsorship program, where a church, for example, could come up with $600, and a homeless person could come up with $150, and the homeless person gets the trailer," said Hoar, who explained the program is just getting underway. He also plans to sell some trailers to non-homeless cyclists going camping this summer.

Each trailer is designed for one person, although they can accommodate two people if necessary. "It's like a single camp cot," said Hoar.

Richards plans to use the trailer to travel this summer with three of his friends, one of whom also has a trailer. They plan to go up-Island and to the Gulf Islands. Later, they'll make the two-week journey to the Okanagan on their bikes.

The trailer is one accomplishment in a long line of innovations Hoar has come up with over the years. He has also designed a trailer with suspension for a woman in a wheelchair who couldn't tolerate the vibrations from the sidewalk.

"They ended up taking her up the outside of the volcano in Hawaii although there was rock and rough ground," Hoar said. "[Her husband] can take her anywhere now."

Hoar has also ridden in the Tour de France, served as president of the BC Masters Cycling Association, worked in Chile, and designed racing wheelchairs for Rick Hansen. But even after all that, he doesn't plan to stop working any time soon.

"What is retiring? Sit around and die?" he asked. "No, I'm too busy for that."

The amazing shrinking UVSS board of directors

by Bryna Hallam

Low attendance continues to be a problem at students' society meetings.

UVSS board meetings, held every two weeks, have had dipping attendance. Of the 13 directors elected by students last spring, only seven were present at the March 7 board meeting. Quorum, the minimum number of members needed to vote on motions, was not met.

Student Eric Haensel, a former board member, asked whether the board was "upholding its democratic mandate to be fair and transparent" given its inability to reach quorum and make official decisions. "It's not just something that's happened this year. It's happened before," said board chair Penny Beames.

Beames also said she has "alerted a few folks" that their attendance, or lack thereof, has been unacceptable. "These discussions are starting," she said.

Other members of the board also expressed concern about the low attendance, noting that they cannot do UVSS work without quorum.

Shamus Reid, the director of finance, suggested directors who had not been attending meetings and not giving their regrets should resign from the board.

"I think it would be a gesture of good faith for those board members who haven't been attending meetings and giving regrets to resign from the board," he said. "Clearly, they don't feel it is an important venture for them."

Director of services Mark Chandler suggested the board "look at people who have not given regrets for three or more meetings."

Since the meeting did not have quorum, no decision was made.

BOARD ATTENDANCE

Name	A	B	C	D
Chadi Akouri	13	1	8	0
Penny Beames	22	0	0	0
Mark Chandler	20	1	1	0
Heather Cochran	7	3	10	2
Erik Fell	9	5	6	2
Loren Husband	20	1	1	0
Jen King	7	4	10	1
Julie Lee	3	6	11	2
Jonny Morris	14	4	4	0
Mike Mulroney	9	3	7	3
Jeremy Peters	4	2	14	2
Chloe Raxen	9	6	5	2
Shamus Reid	22	0	0	0
Kyle Vucko	9	3	6	4

Legend
The table includes meetings up to Feb. 21, at which point there had been 22 meetings.
A – meetings attended for the full duration
B – meetings where only part of the meeting was attended
C – "absent with regrets"
D – "absent without regrets"

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Activists launch lawsuit to protect endangered owls

Survival of the species requires immediate government action, say environmentalists

by Matthew Gauk

Amid audible sighs of sorrow from the audience, two environmental experts spoke at length on Feb. 28 about the legal bid to save the endangered spotted owl.

Joe Foy of the Western Canadian Wilderness Committee (WCWC) and Devon Page of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund (SLDF) were invited to speak on campus by the UVic Environmental Law Centre, a non-profit society aimed at providing research and advocacy on environmental issues. The two men offered an insider's view on the fight to protect "B.C.'s most endangered bird."

In 2005, provincial government biologists found 23 spotted owls in B.C.'s forests, an 84 per cent population decline in 10 years. In an effort to prevent the extinction of the critically endangered bird, the SLDF, on behalf of four environmental groups (including WCWC), filed legal action under Canada's Species at Risk Act demanding the federal government intervene to protect the spotted owl.

"This is the first test of Canada's Species at Risk Act," said Page, an SLDF lawyer. "If the spotted owl situation is not an emergency, then nothing is."

The key issue for the survival of the spotted owl is the survival of old-growth forests—the owls have an affinity for nesting in old-growth. Due to a lack of cover from predators, the owls won't fly through clear-cut areas unless forced to do so.

"That's the problem," said Page, a SLDF lawyer. "A vast percentage of these spotted owls' old-growth is gone."

While environmental groups applauded the B.C. government for taking steps to protect areas like the Great Bear Rainforest, they say there is a lot of room for improvement. Page said the government has continued to allow logging of old-growth forest, and that in some cases even logging companies have a better track record of avoiding owl habitats than the provincial government.

Foy is the national campaign director for WCWC and a self-described "shit-disturber for spotted owls." He said if the spotted owl is to be saved, the province needs to take immediate action to end old-growth logging and enact specific endangered species legislation.

"The discussion of old-growth forest in B.C. needs to happen now," said Foy, who added that the federal government is loath to step into the domain of provincial politics.

The government, according to Foy, seems to be nervous to take any specific action to protect declining ecosystems, and when it does introduce regulations it allows them weaken and weaken.

"No matter how bad things are, they can always get worse," he said.

Page said that even the remedies the judges can prescribe are quite narrow, mostly limited to quashing previous decisions and ordering new investigations. He also acknowledged that the case isn't the strongest one the SLDF has ever taken on.

"In case you don't know, in Canada we have crappy laws on protecting biodiversity," said Page. "Mexico has better laws to protect endangered species than we do."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Provincial government biologists discovered last year that B.C.'s spotted owl population has declined 84 per cent over the last decade.

Foy and Page brought up the case of Hope, a spotted owl captured by government biologists in 2002 that brought international media attention to the cause. Hope died of starvation in the spring of 2003, just weeks after its release back into the wild, and Page noted that the shed used to house the owl during its capture was made of old-growth wood.

"You continue to fight, throwing every brick you can pick up, and eventually what happens is the powerful institutions in society start to take the load off of you," Foy said, adding that they have the support of some MLAs whose time in power will come.

"This campaign is winnable," said Foy. "But it will take just as big a fight as the protected area campaigns required in the '80s and '90s."

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Editorial

Time to move to plan B for emergency contraception

The emergency contraceptive Plan B, is in the news again.

Plan B, a "morning-after pill" that can prevent pregnancy, last made a splash in April 2005 when the federal government approved it for use without a doctor's prescription.

The decision was made to give women easier access to the drug, which, if taken within 72 hours, can prevent pregnancy. But since its effectiveness decreases with time—it is 95 per cent effective if taken within 24 hours of unprotected sex, a number that drops to 85 per cent if it is taken within 72 hours—time is a factor.

The move was heralded by groups as making emergency contraception more accessible to women, who could in theory buy it beforehand—just in case.

But the government's decision didn't result in the pill being available over the counter nationwide. The College of Pharmacists of B.C., for example, just adopted the federal stance in January of this year.

Even in those areas where emergency contraception was available over the counter, access isn't necessarily easy for women.

An investigation for an article by the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) found that many pharmacists were asking women for information, including their names and address, which was then entered into a database—not standard practice for non-prescription drugs.

But the most interesting finding was that women were being asked about their sexual history, which goes against confidentiality laws.

After the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) learned of the upcoming article, it complained to the Canadian Medical Association, which owns the journal. The editor was told not to publish the story based on the objection that the journal had crossed the line between news reporting and scientific research.

The CMAJ story did run—but without the results of the investigation. The editor, John Hoey, wrote an editorial accusing the Canadian Medical Association of censoring the journal's news content in the Plan B article. Since then, Hoey and deputy editor Anne Marie Todkill have been fired, a move some say is related to the controversy over the story.

It appears the CMAJ bowed to pressure to not run content critical of the pharmacists organization, of concern because whatever the reasons for the decision, the CPhA appears to be going against confidentiality laws.

As it turns out, the CPhA had indeed advised its members to collect women's names, addresses, and sensitive personal information before dispensing Plan B. For their part, the group feels the information is needed to properly counsel women on the drug and whether or not it is needed.

The practice is sounding alarms for privacy experts and women's organizations, which feel that having to reveal personal information, in a public setting, will discourage women from using emergency contraception.

And that, of course, defeats the purpose of making Plan B available over the counter.

The government, doctors and pharmacists need to come to an agreement on this issue. No one is benefiting from the current state of affairs, least of all women.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

edit@martlet.ca

THUMBS UP | THUMBS DOWN

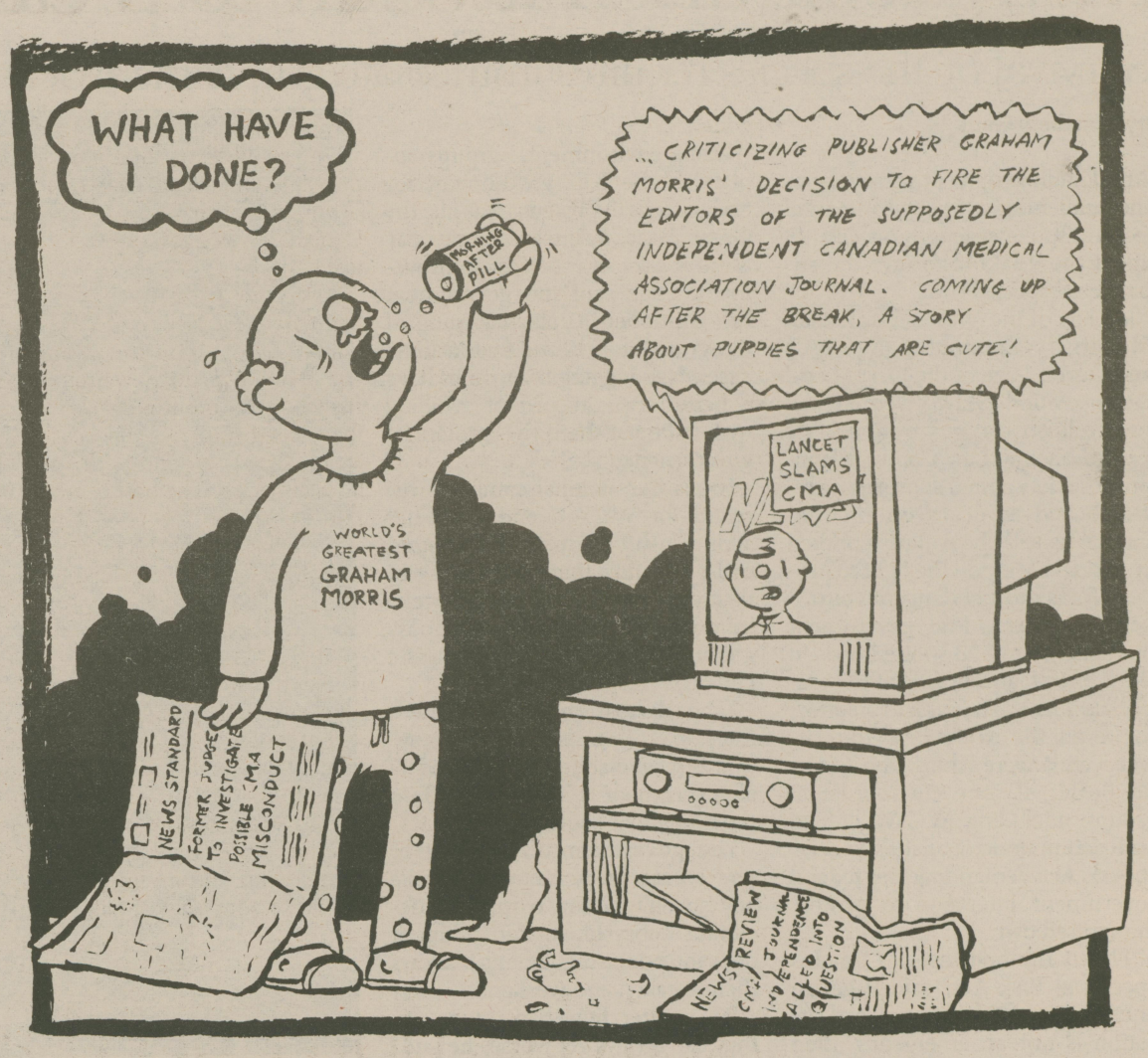
Thumbs Up

To it being hard out here for a pimp. Never before has a song quite like that won "best song" at the Academy Awards. It's about time someone acknowledges the challenges of being a modern-day pimp.

Thumbs Down

To South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds for signing legislation banning nearly all abortions in the state. There are to be no exceptions for incest or rape, but they can be made if the pregnant woman's life is in danger. There couldn't be a much bigger step backwards for women's rights. Expect the law to be challenged before it comes into effect July 1, and years of court cases to follow.

EDITORIAL CARTOON | PLAN C



ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Re: 'Let's talk about it' (Advocacy column, Feb. 2)

Talk to anyone in People First, the organization for people with intellectual disabilities, and they will tell you of the ongoing struggle to be viewed as part of humanity and not defined constantly by their disability. Some steps have been accomplished because of theirs and other's persistence in pushing people-first language, i.e. no longer do teachers refer to their students who happen to use wheelchairs through no fault of their own as "that wheelchair," quite forgetting the person sitting in it.

You can't park a disability like a suitcase, any more than you can leave your skin if it is a different colour. For a person with a disability, the disability is natural. It is society who has the baggage that needs to be parked and realize that we are all being supported by our taxes through government services whether it be health, education, old age pension, highways or disability supports.

Would any of us refer to ourselves as "a severely normal person"? Why then is it all right to say "severely disabled person"? The author of this article does a huge disservice to those of us advocating for equality for people with disabilities.

-Sandy Phillips

Guys and girls can co-exist

I want to thank Kim Armstrong for helping to spread the word that Scouts Canada is a co-ed organization. ("What happened to the Boy Scouts?" *Martlet,* Feb. 16) Despite Scouts Canada being officially co-ed for 10 years (and unofficially for a lot longer than that), the vast number of Canadians seemed to have missed the news.

Kim mentions that "[equality] means that everyone is treated equally," and I whole-heartedly agree! Being a female member of Scouts Canada for the past nine years as an equal to the boys has done more for me to break down gender stereotypes than anything else during my youth. Alongside the guys I have backpacked huge distances and canoed in rough storms, fixed cars and changed tires, built trebuchets with power tools and fires with axes, and cooked over a camp stove and cleaned dishes without running water. Most importantly I have learned how guys and girls can co-exist without getting caught up in superficial gender barriers that limit their potential, and so have my male peers. So, thanks Kim for getting the word out so more young girls and boys can join Scouting and have the great adventures, opportunities, and life lessons that I've had!

-Jessica Page

Our own 'disappeared'

From my experience of working with people in social difficulties in Victoria I have come to fear that we have evolved our own system of the "disappeared" no less lethal than in some South American countries ("Human rights advocates speak for missing women" *Martlet,* Feb. 9). Our disappeared are those struck off the welfare lists.

How many of these are now employed? How many just eke out a miserable existence on the streets with no visible means of support? In the last few years over 100,000 people have been struck off assistance and 6,000 people have died even while receiving welfare. Why? Were they not able to sustain themselves on that meager handout? Did they receive adequate medical and dental care? Or did their soul-sapping poverty simply overcome their will to live?

Unfortunately, our government considers this vital information not even worth investigating. It does not know what has happened to our disappeared. It is uncomfortably manifest to me that those of us who care must inform ourselves. We must press for a change of social attitudes and government policies away from indifference towards compassion. Do not let us imagine 'it can never happen to me.' It is a mere change of the wind direction away for all of us.

-Marcia Williams

Politicians don't need religion

In regards to "Give the religious right a chance" (*Martlet,* Jan. 26) I believe that values should be based on thought-out principles, so that they have consistency and we know that the person has reason for choosing such values. Values must be changeable with respect to new information; this is something religion does not accommodate.

Choosing values based on religion implies no thought, and no consideration for current real world issues. If you find yourself questioning your moral values with religion to decide for you, maybe that's because you're a weak, vapid person, who is not intelligent enough to formulate your own opinion on something, and those are certainly not traits I want a politician to have.

Religious values may coincide with other values that a politician has and this is certainly acceptable, as long as they have been fully thought out and are not infringing on the separation of church and state.

-Natasha Tuskovich

Shame on you

On March 2 I attended a presentation on the situation in Israel and the occupied territories by Canadian journalist John Elmer. I went into this presentation expecting a very one-sided argument, with a strong Palestinian bias. What I found was a sickening display of directed guilt-tripping and selective information.

I don't think I've ever been to an event where the speaker single-handedly created such a hostile environment for those not sharing his point of view. I can't help but feel sympathetic for the few Jews who decided to attend this event in hopes of establishing some sort of meaningful dialogue.

Elmer, with plenty of help from the audience, responded to every unfavourable question with utter disrespect, at certain points even insulting and personally attacking some audience members.

Not that it really matters, but I am neither Jewish nor am I particularly sympathetic to the state of Israel. It seems that now, I must have that statement tattooed to my forehead so that I don't get dirty looks from the crew of self-righteous (yet very intolerant) UVic students for sitting next to my Jewish friends. We speak too much of intolerance elsewhere but forget our own ideological intolerance too often.

-Rafael Scarnati

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Privatized health care might move north

Canadians could become one illness away from complete financial collapse

by Clarke Ries

Alberta has dropped the health-care bomb. Whether you love Klein's proposal to allow some private industry into Alberta health care or hate it, anyone with a passing knowledge of the issue has to admit that the fertilizer truck is getting dangerously close to an industrial-grade fan.

Alberta is the first province to seriously challenge the fundamental beliefs of the Canadian medical system, but it won't be the last. For those who don't really follow the health-care debate in Canada, now is a good time to start because what our politicians decide to do about health care will change all of our lives.

Currently, the Canadian health-care system is owned by the government, which has a legal commitment to treat everyone equally and without regard for ability to pay. It's a concept based on the idea that, when it comes to something as vital to life as medical care, it shouldn't matter how much money you can throw at the system.

The problem is that providing proper health care to everyone who needs it is very expensive, and Canadians, as a general rule, hate taxes.

This results in our medical system being not very well funded. It does not provide ideal treatment, and often there are huge waiting lists stretching for months or even years for needed surgeries. The vast majority of western countries use public health care. The best example is Europe, where the crucial difference is that European taxpayers are willing to foot the much larger bill necessary to provide ideal health care.

On the other end of the spectrum is the private health-care system practiced by the Americans.

The easiest way to describe this scheme is "quality of life up for grabs to the highest bidder." In the United States, hospitals are like private businesses operating in a free market with bottom lines to meet, similar to McDonalds, Nike or Enron.

The customers with the cash get access to the most skilled doctors, all the cutting-edge technology, and the best and fastest service in the world.

Others are not so lucky. In the words of Harvard law professor Elizabeth Warren, "The American middle class is solid and secure and prosperous . . . yet American families live just one illness or accident away from complete financial collapse." Warren's 2000 insolvency study found that almost half of the million Americans to go bankrupt in 1999 did so due to medical expenses.

"It was very unlikely 30 years ago that an ordinary family could run up a half-million dollar medical bill, yet today that can happen in a matter of weeks in a major medical centre," wrote Warren.

At the dismal end, nearly 46 million Americans, or 15 per cent of the population, are without insurance at all, leaving them at the mercy of hospitals whose administrations are in place to run a profitable business, nothing more.

The advantages of privatized health care are that, if you aren't one of the approximately one in six people screwed by the system, and if nothing goes wrong in your life — for example, having a premature baby whose additional massive medical expenses are not covered by your insurance — the care you receive is the best in the world, bar none.

The disadvantage is simple: when the cash runs out, so does access to health care.

As Canadians, we are drawing very close to the time when we will have to make a choice: we can fix the public system we have now by providing it with the budget it needs to operate at the sacrifice of increased taxes, or we can start down the privatization road—a little at first, but potentially far more extensively in the end.

After watching what big business has done to American medicine, mere ease of use and shorter wait lists should not be sufficient cause to sign a deal with the free-market devil.

Activists don't need a party

Liberal, anarchist, social democrat, green—whatever!

by Trey McNeil

"The free market is ugly and stupid, like going to the mall. The unfree market is just as ugly and just as stupid, except there is nothing in the mall and if you don't go there they shoot you."

-P.J. O'Rourke

I have noticed a lot of politicking going on around campus. The student notice boards are packed with flyers advertising meetings, marches and video nights for freedom. The UVic student population seems to be divided between the politically aware and the politically oblivious.

The most common affiliation appears to be the socialist democrat/NDP camp, as well as the Green Party. Less prevalent, but still present, are federal-style Liberals. There is also a smattering of B.C. Liberals, but not many. If all else fails, there are always the anarchists, who are somewhat common but not terribly organized. (Nor should they be. "Anarchist organization" is a contradiction, like "violent pacifist.")

What is my point you ask? Only that I seem to be something of an anomaly on the UVic campus—a politically aware, politically active UVic student with no clear, identifiable affiliation to any given party. I'm sort of a political agnostic—not really an atheist, but not quite a believer. It was not always this way.

I grew up in a house of card carrying NDPers and small-L liberals. What else could I be? Well, quite a lot actually, but stay with me. So, I started out as a believer with an NDP sensibility, which grew into a full-blown case of socialism by the time I was 20. This was a condition American political satirist, P.J. O'Rourke once described as "the obligatory collegiate flirtation with Marxism." Then, some fact came to light and I fell into the depths of a deep nihilism.

Don't get me wrong—I wasn't, and am still not, the violent type, which is likely why I fell out of socialism. I just didn't see the point of government. Having been shown the tragic parody of this form of democratic capitalism and the utter un-workability of socialism in the modern North American context, I was left with nothing to believe in. I was less "SMASH THE STATE!" and more "WHAT'S THE POINT?"

After a short period as a civil libertarian, I realized that the Marxist versus laissez-faire capitalist dichotomy is weak, if not false. There are plenty of alternatives to both of these ideologies. These include the barter system of exchange, with direct trade of commodities and possessions instead of using set currency. For those more commercially inclined, there is the Keynesian economics, which, while it is based on a cash economy, is far more equitable than modern Adam Smith-style capitalism.

Spurred by a friend's comment, I have pretty much let go of the idea of political affiliation. Basically, it comes down to the fact that I am too open-minded to be a right-winger and too world wary to be a left-winger. I have tried a myriad of labels, from pragmatist to centralist, but none of them felt right. They were still just labels, not descriptions.

I also happen to believe that, as a great man once said "Sitting on the fence only gets you splinters in your butt."

Now, if pressed, I will describe myself as an optimistic realist because these are personality traits, not political positions. I have no illusions about the sometimes-vile nature of democratic government, yet have no inclination towards revolution either.

When it comes to politics, I agree with what I can, comment satirically on what I cannot and proudly exercise my right to vote—for the lesser of two evils.

Advocacy unstable at UVic

Access UVic continues its momentum towards change

by R. Kavadas

When I was 15 years old, I had the privilege of talking privately with Tommy Douglas. From that conversation I gained an insight into the man and his motivation: a drive for just equality.

He suggested that the minority could often be seen as the conscience of the majority, and, equally as often, that the majority is not listening to its conscience.

Here on this campus, we have several student advocacy groups—many that I have seen rise and fall throughout the 17 years that I have been a student at UVic. Still, we have small pockets of "conscience" reminders, which have added richer diversity to the university.

Each advocacy group enriches the community by encouraging people to hear their "conscience" voice. These groups represent a percentage of the student population whose words are not being heard very well. The advocacy groups pool students together who share similar issues, which are often seen and respected as part of this university community and, by extension, as part of the greater community.

The student body has shown its respect and encouragement time and time again through several referendums, agreeing to contribute to the work of the advocacy groups through their student fees. This is a strong statement of support for a more inclusive community that respects all of the parts of its whole.

The advocacy groups have contributed to the university's policies on several occasions, the latest being the policy on disability accommodation (Academic Accommodation and Access for Students with Disabilities). It was the actions of Access UVic, the constituency group for students with disabilities, that brought about the policy changes—changes that are respectful toward part of our university community.

However, these changes would not have come about, I'm sad to say, without the voice of Access UVic acting as the conscience of the university.

I have seen several evolutions of the various advocacy groups, none more so than the disabled students' society. There have been many attempts to create a lasting stable advocacy group, but, until now, most have ended in failures.

Access UVic was born out of a general meeting in 2004 that I attended as a student with disabilities. It was the first time since coming to this campus that I felt a momentum—an honest push for change for students with disabilities.

The elected board and the director that was appointed that day impressed me.

I grew to respect their efforts even more so as the referendum to support Access UVic took place. They worked to the point of nearly harming their health just to raise the voice of conscience for the community.

I still feel that momentum building for change. Access UVic is going to be a major contributor to greater awareness of the issues facing the disabled student population.

Let's make sure that this disability group won't be silenced, or face a return to isolation.

PORN PORN PORN

by Briony Smith

LOCAL TRENDS IN SKIN FLICKS

Thanks to the Internet, it's difficult for most university students to remember a time when pornography wasn't at our fingertips 24-7. While, for the most part, the Internet porn revolution was bad news for stores selling porn, it has also had some interesting—and surprising—effects on local porn retailers.

Christine Page, owner of The Garden of Eden, Victoria's oldest sex store, has found that the advent of so much hardcore at one's fingertips has actually sent people running back to the porn store.

"We're seeing a lot more couples. Everyone, including some men, wants more storylines. They're sick of the basic wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am porn that's so readily available on the Internet," she says.

Much of the porn available on the Internet is "gonzo" porn made by camera-wielding amateurs. Shot on digital (often by the person having the sex), there are no sets, costumes, or stories—just sex. This low-quality porn makes it easy to see why people might be drawn to titles from more upscale companies like Private, Vivid, Ninn Worx and Valentine.

Softcore porn, unlike its hardcore counterpart, features few close-ups of penetration and is very story-heavy. An example of softcore is the Femme series by former porn star, Candida Royalle, which is in demand right now at the Garden of Eden.

The high-gloss films of Andrew Blake are also popular. This trend is echoed at the Love Stop, where manager Kara Lloyd has also seen Internet-porn-weary clientele flock to the storyline-equipped porno. Their shoppers are far from the stereotypical raincoat crowd—50 per cent of their business is couples.

The Romance Shop, whose business is also primarily composed of couples, has seen this, too; manager Linda Preziuso says films with storylines have soared in popularity, whether they are softcore or hardcore.The owner of Red Hot Video, who asked not to be identified, has also seen the porn film business affected by Internet porn.

"With so many cookie-cutter women on the Net today, people turn to porn videos for something different," says the owner.

The store has seen a sharp rise in the demand for porn featuring mature and overweight women, along with many requests for women with pubic hair. Although the Internet boom initially hit Red Hot Video hard, the store's selection of movies, sex toys, personal lubricant and lingerie have ensured that this one-stop-shop for all one's masturbatory needs is flourishing. And that's even before their wall of gay porn is factored in—they have the biggest selection in the city. Red Hot Video carries everything, from films produced by blockbuster gay labels like Falcon and Bel Ami to leather daddy movies.

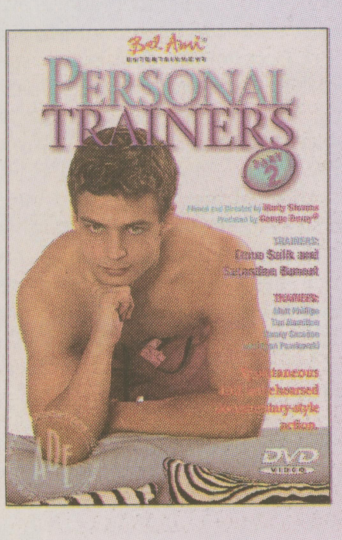
XXX FILM REVIEWS

Jane Bomb (available at The Garden of Eden)

- Starts with lengthy—and awesome!—action sequence, featuring guns, snowmobile chases and explosions
- Female villain sings opera while maiming and killing her adversaries
- All the leads have unaltered breasts in a variety of sizes
- Hilarious ending

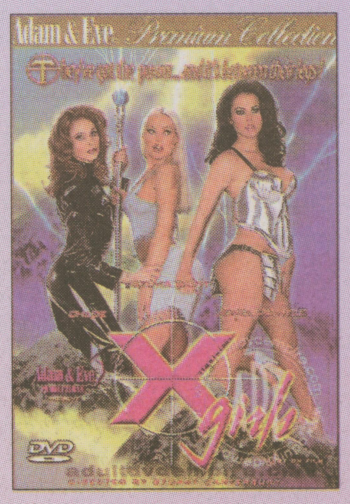
Pirates (available at Red Hot Video)

- Flattering lighting, fancy special effects, spectacular sets and an orchestral score
- Laugh-out-loud funny with stars that look like they're having fun



Personal Trainers 2 (available at Red Hot Video)

- 100 per cent condom use
- The lack of pretense ("My legs are cramping up!") and general merriment are refreshing



X Girls (available at The Romance Shop)

- This is the hands-down winner! The super-funny plot and wacky costumes are great, but most importantly, this movie is all about women super-heroes who are having a blast—and real pleasure.
- There's actual orgasms, realistic moans and groans, curvacious bodies, pubic hair, condom use every time and nary a facial in sight.

GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS, TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT PORN

Many women (especially those who consider themselves feminists) balk at the idea of watching, let alone enjoying, pornography—specifically, straight pornography. Perhaps they should reconsider why they don't give porn a chance. When you look closer, many of the objections about porn seem contradictory, while actually watching some porn might create a more feminist-friendly, less sexist and more sex-positive society.

Self-proclaimed open-minded women say they are sympathetic to sex workers'—including porn stars'—"plight," and think that protesting against the porn industry and its exploitation of women by men is helping their fellow woman out of what must be an awful situation.

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HALF-A-DOZEN WAYS TO FIND PORN YOU LOVE

1) Don't be afraid of going into a porn store. The people who work there are generally sex-positive folks who have seen all sorts of stuff and don't give a second thought to what you're into. Also, don't be afraid to ask for what you want. Many of the boxes can look the same, and employees can help you grab what you're after.

2) Lots of folks don't like facials (when a man ejaculates on a person's face), commonplace in porn, but there are ways to avoid them. You can seek out "internal" movies, which feature men ejaculating inside the person, while older movies from the "Golden Age" of porn often feature non-facial come shots. *Edge Play*, featuring *Behind the Green Door*'s porn all-star Marilyn Chambers, also does without the face shots—and does feature female ejaculation.

3) There are plenty of women directors out in Porn Land now, many of whom used to be on the other side of the camera, like Candida Royalle. Almost anything by Veronica Hart, who has a penchant for engaging plots, realistic bodies and real female orgasms—her *White Lightning* features the top-notch trio of Ginger Lynn, Nina Hartley and Chloe—is worth checking out.

4) So-called "lesbian porns" are a dime a dozen, but real lesbians having sex on film are harder to find. The Erocktavision series offers real-life lesbians—somewhere between ultra-girly lipstick femmes and tough butch dykes—framed by unique camera angles and cool music. *Hard Love*, *How to Fuck in High Heels* and *Sugar High Glitter City* are other notables.

5) For those tired of the more straight-laced traditional blue movies, there are plenty of non-intimidating kinky vids to get you on the road to being a true porn kinkster. The four-hour, extra-fancy, $500,000 production *Fashionistas*; the female-directed *The Story of J*; the arty black-and-white flicks *Ecstasy in Berlin—1926* and *The Black Glove/The Elegant Spanking*; and anything from the Decadent Divas series offers something different without going too far, too fast.

6) The trend of women, both gay and straight, watching gay porn is skyrocketing. GayPornBlog.com is a good place to get started, while BoyFunk.com, a popular gay website, is run on an impressive philosophy.

They feature 100 per cent condom use, test all their models for STDs, require that they be drug-free and sometimes make models partners in the profits from their movies, says president AJ Braden in a telephone interview. (Bisexual porn, the awkward middle child of the industry, is, unfortunately, often populated by hideous actors, but *Mass Appeal 2* is watchable.)

e conditions that might have made in the first place," says Avedon Carol *udes, Prudes, and Attitudes*.
en claim porn enforces the idea of n's playthings, their "sexual property." points out, these are the same values he church, state and media that often d by those who have a problem with

ut that upper-class white women are to get angry that many poorer to sex work, and refuse to acknowlthat many women choose to go into n alternative to other jobs, or to es- e husband.
e to leave the porn industry, their job ake it difficult to find new employloyers inevitably see porn as illegitind somehow less noble than other professions that someone of their education level and skill set are capable of.

Sure, women are "harassed, underpaid, exposed to danger, [and] mistreated" in the porn industry, says Carol—but "why is this only wrong when it involves pornography?"

"Porn is a sexier topic than the more intractable problems of unequal pay, job discrimination, sexual violence and harassment, the unequal burdens of child-care and housework, increasing right-wing infringements on hard-won feminist gains, and several millennia of unrelenting male privilege," writes Gayle Rubin in her essay "Misguided, Dangerous, and Wrong: an Analysis of Anti-pornography Politics" in *Bad Girls and Dirty Pictures*.

Women suffer indignities in many industries. These inequalities—and a lack of sex-positivity—are so ingrained in society that many people, including feminists, find it easy to skim over these issues in favour of targeting the negative aspects of the porn industry. In every other field of work that endangers its female workers, feminists lobby for better working conditions—but when it comes to porn, many feminists feel we'd be better off with no porn industry at all.

Another contradiction is that most feminists will fight for a woman's right to choose what to do with her body, yet at the same time they say women aren't capable of choosing to use their body for pornographic purposes.

And porn stars who claim to like it? They're written off as "too 'brainwashed' to understand how oppressed [they] are," writes Carol. These women and their choices are being brushed aside in the rush to save them.

The assumption—and insistence—that women in porn are, in every case, being exploited and aren't enjoying themselves assigns them the desexualized inferior status of traditional sexism, write Carol and Nettie Page in their essay "Changing Perceptions in the Feminist Debate" in *Bad Girls and Dirty Pictures*. It is a "more feminine, non-assertive sexuality," according to Carol. The idea that women cannot enjoy group sex, oral sex, anal sex, BDSM, or whatever, "is every bit as much a misrepresentation of real women as anything to be found in pornography," write Carol and Page.

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

PROVIDED PHOTO

Transman pornstar Buck Angel has a pussy and he's not afraid to use it.

Porn is one of the few places in the media where women are actually shown taking charge of their sexuality—they frequently instigate sex and changing positions, and are often shown masturbating during sex. Recent years have shown an increase in porn aimed towards women, with millions of dollars being spent on high-gloss productions that feature storylines and women in positions of power.

Many former porn stars, such as Veronica Hart and Candida Royalle, have taken to directing movies that feature strong women with unaltered breasts and real orgasms, while Nina Hartley makes sexy instructional movies to improve your sex life. The more feminists watching porn that features subject matter that appeals to them, the more movies like that will be made—nothing speaks louder than consumers' money.

The more pro-porn—or at least anti-censorship—we are, the better off we'll be. Lynne Segal, in the introduction to her and Mary McIntosh's book *Sex Exposed*, refers to a study that found a "positive correlation between equal opportunities for women in employment, education, and politics, and higher circulation rates of pornography." On a bigger scale, Denmark, a country that is sex-positive and where porn is 100 per cent legal and no big deal, is also one of the most gender-equal countries in the world.

Increased tolerance is one of porn's greatest features. Watching (and making) pornography should be seen in a positive way—as a way to make people more comfortable with who they are and what they want. Watching porn can help couples explore new things, or make people feel more at ease about their sexuality, knowing that there are others out there who love the same thing they do.

Female-to-male (FTM) transgendered person Buck Angel, the world's first transman porn star, says he likes the self-confidence that making porn has given him. "I like educating people about sexual freedom and the diversity in sexuality and gender," he says in an e-mail interview. "I enjoy helping people to become more comfortable with themselves and their sexuality. Porn exposes people to aspects of sexuality, and sexual activities that they might not be aware of, or might not have tried. Seeing other people having a good time at these activities can be inspiring to your sex life." He says has received a lot of feedback that his work has vastly improved the sex lives of FTMs and their partners.

Porn has a lot to offer the world—and women, especially feminists, shouldn't be too quick to condemn such a great potential ally in making the world a more sex-positive and female-empowered place.

AURAL AFFAIRS

There's nothing complex about that simplex

by Jake Sandberg

If people had a sex life like mine, sexually transmitted infections (STI) wouldn't really be a problem. But never mind my inability to score on Friday nights; you can still catch something without getting any!

There are plenty of STIs out there. Just like people, some are easier to pick up than others and some won't leave you alone.

The herpes simplex virus (HSV) comes in multiple flavours, and like HIV there is no cure. Better known simply as herpes and for the cold sores it causes, it's everywhere.

According to the U.S. Center for Disease control, one in five Americans have the genital form and for stats closer to home, it is estimated that annually, two per cent of the sexually active youth in Canada become infected with genital herpes. On top of that, 80 per cent of Americans are infected by the oral form of herpes.

Sharing lip-gloss, drinks, and kisses are all a potential for catching HSV-1, the oral form of herpes. But to complicate matters, both HSV-1 and HSV-2, the genital form, can cause oral and genital herpes. It all depends on how you match up you and your partner's body parts. In addition, the infection can spread even if you show no signs of an outbreak, which means you should practice safer sex at all times.

Abstinence, as boring and lame as it is, is the only real protection, but there are other things one can do. Assuming both partners are clean to start, long-term couples get to have sex without fear of catching anything—just another of many reasons to find true love.

But if you haven't settled down quite yet, you can still play it safe. Be an asshole and don't share anything—your friends will thank you later, even if they hate you for not giving them a sip of your drink. As awkward as it is, one can also screen potential lovers by bringing it up in conversation. Even if you don't get an exact answer, gauging their reaction will at least give you a good insight into their opinions on the matter. Whether you ask subtly, slip it in to a joke, or be direct about it, I guarantee that you will thank yourself later for checking first. As weak as it is, simply washing your hands and face is an excellent means to avoiding oral herpes. All it takes is one virus to infect those delicate and luscious lips of yours, so don't give it a chance! Wash your hands and face after handling public objects and remember to turn the dirty faucet off with a paper towel. Lastly, just don't kiss randoms!

When it comes to sex, cover up. Male condoms can help protect both men and women from herpes and other STIs. Female condoms, which cover a larger area than their male counterparts, are another option, and are a good choice if one partner is already infected. You might also want to go the extra mile and use a dental dam since condoms can't protect everything—they don't come in full body sizes yet. Stretchy and entertaining as they are, use a dental dam for oral sex.

Most of all, get tested and be honest. If you have herpes—oral or genital—or any other STI, tell your perspective bedmate. Talking about STIs may not be fun, but it's better than finding out down the road that your last lover shared more than their bed.

Sadly, most of us only learn from our mistakes, but this isn't a lesson anyone should have to learn- or teach for that matter. No future lover wants to hear "Not for the next two weeks dear, my crotch feels like it's on fire" or worse yet, get infected.

Finally, sorry to anyone who didn't enjoy reading this or is now stricken with fear. Next week I will be back to normal with something emo for everyone to enjoy.

Next week: Together for all the wrong reasons

Deepak Chopra tempers unruly Victoria crowd

by Amy Geddes

PROVIDED PHOTO

Deepak Chopra

It was expected to be a calm, aware, and harmonious gathering with Dr. Deepak Chopra, world-renowned leader in mind-body medicine, but something within the audience's deepest nature must have willed the universe otherwise.

Because of a feedback echo from the speakers, select audience members had problems hearing, got downright angry, and delayed the start of the show for nearly half an hour.

Multiple comments of "We can't hear over here" were followed by rude comments like "Shut up" and "Be quiet and sit somewhere else"—a pitiful display on behalf of Victoria.

The poised Chopra tried to resolve the problem in verbal co-operation with the sound crew. "Just relax; we'll figure it out. I'm going to keep testing until we get it right. My friends, sound people please!"

The sound issue was eventually resolved but a surreal feeling lingered. Chopra—endocrinologist, well-respected author of over 42 books, and co-founder of the Chopra Centre for Well-being in California—was in Victoria to speak about the importance of being aware of the collective consciousness, not only are our fellow human beings an extension of our community, but an extension of our own bodies, our organs, our cells, and our atoms. Chopra requested the audience close their eyes to reflect upon the question, "Who is listening?" The deepest parts of our individual consciousnesses were listening, but the collective consciousness of the audience listened as well. This created a feeling that every body made up one giant organism—what was only a moment ago, an angry, agitated, disharmonic group became a single body of listeners, singularly aware.

For three hours Chopra interwove the philosophies of new science with ancient spiritualities. He encouraged what he called "a spiritual understanding of that deepest level of ourselves where we find the infinite organizing power of our intention."

While the concepts he discussed required concentrated attention, he captivated the audience with his ability to make abstract concepts real and tangible for people by telling meaningful yet light-heartedly funny stories. He recounted his early years as a young physician who spent all his money at the Moulin Rouge, he described coincidental experiences where the universe extraordinarily worked in his favour, and he even got the audience laughing while describing his spiritual journey to the head of the Ganges where he took his fathers' ashes.

Just as Deepak said that night, "It is important to know your shadow. I am standing here and I can see my shadow but I can only see my shadow because I am in the light." We Victorians may have needed to see our shadow selves to learn to be a more gracious audience.

For more on the tour and recent publication, The Book of Secrets: Unlocking the Hidden Dimensions of Your Life, *visit www.chopra.com.*

Semi-annual General Meeting
Graduate Students' Society

Meeting agenda

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes
3. Executive Council Reports
4. Adoption of 2006-07 Annual Budget
5. Consideration of motions that have been received with due notice
6. Ratification of 2006-07 Executive Council Members
7. Other Business

Deadline for submission of constitutional motions is 4pm, Thurs., March 16 and can be made to the GSS office or by email to gssmgr@uvic.ca.

Budget, minutes, and motions will be available at the GSS office and website on March 20 at 10am.

GSS Graduate Students' Society UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA LOCAL 89 CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

Tuesday, March 28 at 5.30pm - Grad Centre
Refreshments Served
http://gss.uvic.ca

EXPRESSIONS OF EXPERIENCE: SHATTERING SILENCE

Colouring Book Project Victoria launch

M21 coalition

Storytelling thru art, voice, music & dance

Saturday March 11
The Jamaican Jerk House
607 Pandora Ave.
8pm Door
9pm Spoken Word, Poetry & Readings
??pm DJ Su-Comandante on the turntables!
free! books by donation

Saturday March 18
The Jamaican Jerk House
607 Pandora Ave.
7pm Door
Hip Hop for Hunger
Erik Dozier
Open Mic Storytelling
by donation

sponsors for this event include:
UVSS Students of Colour Collective, UVic Women's Studies Equity and Outreach Committee, UVSS Armed With Understanding Lecture Series, UVic Women's Centre, Victoria Inter-Cultural Association, cineVIC, and fACT.

contact the March 21 Coalition: socc@uvss.uvic.ca, or 250. 472. 4697

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Stalin meets samurai in Japanese drama

Two one-act plays from UVic visiting instructor Oriza Hirata parody the politics of indecision

What: Seinendan Company
Where: Metro Studio, 1411 Quadra
When: March 10 and 11 @ 8 p.m.
How much: $18, call 383-2663, www.intrepidtheatre.com

by Jessica Smith

PROVIDED PHOTO

One of Hirata's short plays recasts samurai warriors as corporate working women.

Japan's Seinendan theatre company returns to Victoria this weekend with two one-act plays parodying historical events: the Yalta Conference—a meeting between Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill near the end of Second World War—and Chushingura, the true myth of a vendetta of 47 early-18th-century samurai warriors.

Writer/director and head of the Seinendan Company, Oriza Hirata, says that his parodies, *The Yalta Conference* and *Ronin Office Ladies (OL Chushingura)*, come from a unique perspective that is neither Western nor distinctly Japanese.

"I only write what the world looks like to me," he says, through interpreter Hiroko Matsuda. (The plays are also in Japanese, and have subtitles that are similar to those in foreign-language films.) "I want my audiences to see my version of the world and interpret it freely on their own. I don't intend to convey any of my political messages."

Yet, politics play a part in Hirata's work and in his conversation. When asked how he likes Victoria, Hirata explains that the city is nothing special, but he was here in 2000 when they elected Bush—"a day of historical importance, so to speak," he says, with a derisive smile that is not lost in translation.

At first, Hirata was worried that some of his humour could not cross borders, or cultures, without being misunderstood. "But now I think there are no major misunderstandings," he says. "Already we've toured all over the world. We started in Oklahoma and then we go to Houston, those very conservative areas in the United States."

He explains that his plays, especially *The Yalta Conference*, do not criticize the United States alone, but criticize powerful countries all over the world, including Japan. "I think this would be a disturbing piece for conservative people in those places," he says. "But we can't help it."

Hirata's plays find their humour in truthful parody. "I wrote no lies; there are no lies in the script," he says of *The Yalta Conference*. "But I didn't write [any] exact words of those three [Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt], either."

Part of this humour emerges from Hirata's portrayal of the three leaders as fallible human beings instead of larger-than-life icons.

"In historical moments, maybe at war, we live everyday life all the time, the same. Nobody's life is like that, the star of the Hollywood movie," he says. "I think, for the audience, they may think, 'This version might be more true than what we see and hear in newspapers,' but it is a pure comedy—a very severe dark-humour comedy."

The humour is dark, Hirata says, because the issues it satirizes are scary and real. "Everything we are facing here now stems from what they are talking about in *The Yalta Conference*," he says. "Israel and Palestine, the issue of North Korea—they all stemmed from the Yalta Conference."

The second play, *Ronin Office Ladies (OL Chushingura)*, stretches the veracity of parody farther than *Yalta*, transforming the samurai warriors of the traditional kabuki drama into corporate working women.

"Samurai warriors and young working women are total opposites—but extreme opposites have a familiar factor, [both] in the feudal society and in this company," says Hirata. "The warriors of the Chushingura lived in a world a hundred years after all the wars ended. They are not . . . warriors; they are more [like] women office workers."

Both the women and the samurai face the same issue—reaching a timely consensus in a leaderless group. Echoes of the tri-leader Yalta Conference and its burgeoning United Nations ring loud and clear.

All of Hirata's plays follow his theory of "contemporary colloquial theatre," in which real life, whether an ordinary day or a defining historical moment, is celebrated as drama.

"[My plays] are not theatrical dramatic long monologues," he says. "For me, in Western theatre, they talk too much. Why they talk so enthusiastically I don't understand. We human beings spend more time not talking than talking. I want to cherish those moments of life."

Biography – Oriza Hirata

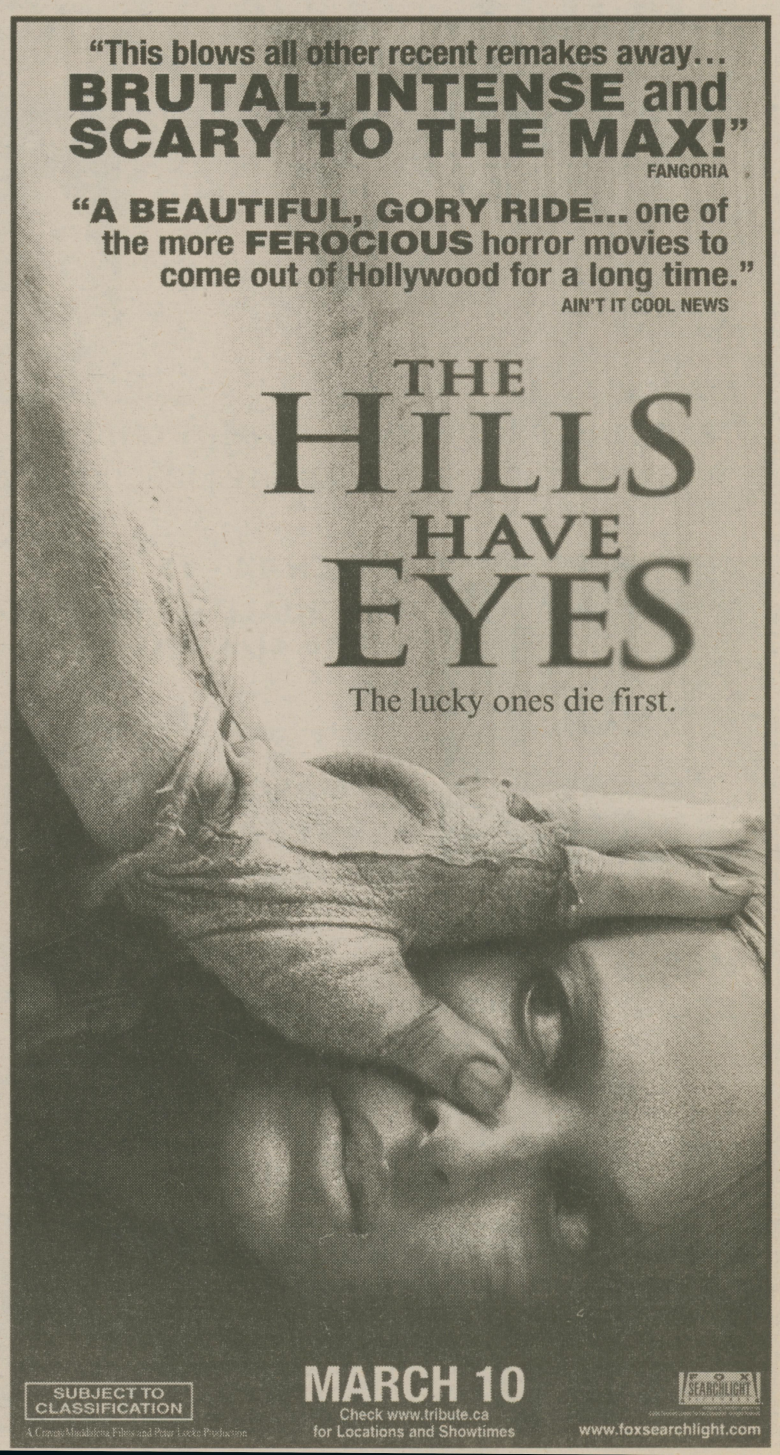
Playwright, director, leader of Seinendan and artistic director of Komaba Agora Theater. Born in Tokyo in 1962. Graduated from International Christian University, College of Liberal Arts, Humanities Division.

In 1995, Hirata won the 39th Kishida Kunio Drama Award with *Tokyo Note (Tokyo Notes)*. In 1998, he received the fifth Yomiuri Theatre Outstanding Director Award for his production of *Tsuki no Misaki (The Cape of the Moon)*, a play written by Masataka Matsuda.

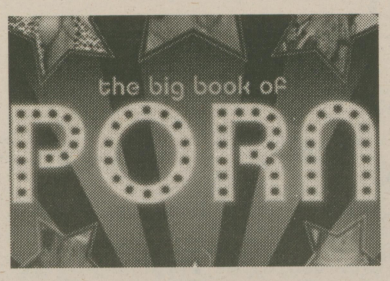
Hirata formed the Seinendan theatre company while still in college, and has since developed a consistent methodology in his activities in the theater world. Hirata's "contemporary colloquial theatre" is a new and practical theatre theory. His theatrical practice, and books like *Gendai Kogo Engeki no tameni (For Contemporary Colloquial Theater)*, have had a profound impact on the current theatre scene in Japan.

Hirata has become a noted critic on such cultural matters as education, language and literature. In April 2000, he took a position as an associate professor at the School of Integrated Culture, a new division to develop a comprehensive program of theatre education in the Department of Humanities at Obirin University. Hirata's workshop method is included in a new Japanese textbook for junior high school students. Over 300,000 children per year will be creating drama in the classrooms.

- from www.seinendan.org



BOOK | THE BIG BOOK OF PORN



The Big Book of Porn
Seth Grahame-Smith
Raincoast Books
$24.95, 208 pgs.

by Briony Smith

With a name like *The Big Book of Porn*, Seth Grahame-Smith's 208-page primer is a surprisingly tame read.

The lightweight glossy tome touches lightly on all the surface aspects of porn, and only hints at some of the weirder, harsher, or lesser-known aspects of the biz. It's like the Reader's Digest version of *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Pornography But Were Afraid to Ask*.

Grahame-Smith does cover some interesting nuggets in dirty-movie history, tracing the timeline from the development of photography all the way to Bush's anti-porn crusade. In many ways, porno is in its dark days, compared to the "Golden Age" of porn in the '70s when silicone-free bodies still sported pubic hair, movies were shot on film, and the spectre of HIV didn't loom large. Many of today's youth are too young to know about this era's classics, making his list of the 20 greats—including *The Devil in Miss Jones*, *The Opening of Misty Beethoven*, and *Behind the Green Door*—useful indeed.

And the "Atlas of Porn," which describes different countries' porn industries, is a real eye-opener. The Japan section, for example, sheds light on the fascinating porno genres of nose torture, patience face (hours of a woman in a box with only her face visible, while men "do their business" in the box), and wet fetish (a woman sitting in a swimming pool or bathtub, alone).

While Grahame-Smith does fancy himself a funny man, he isn't, really, and his constant quips grow tiresome. The more troubling part of the equation is his non-sex-positive jokes and put-downs that emerge occasionally, especially in the section going over the different kinds of porn. He often adopts a snarky, condescending tone ("If you crave out-of-focus butt pimples, then let me be the first to congratulate you") and seems disgusted by the idea of old people having sex, among other things. His "turn-ons/turn-offs" sidebars in each section are often downright mean, and he occasionally tips into stating his suppositions as fact—for instance, that most women squirting (ejaculating) in porn are actually peeing.

To borrow a (typical) conceit from Grahame-Smith's book, *The Big Book of Porn* is like a philosophy degree—it's fun and seems like a good idea, but, in the end, it's stupid and irresponsible.

Russian ballet masters on film

A new documentary on Les Ballets Russes plays at Cinecenta

by Deborah Daudin

Nearly 100 years ago, in 1909, the Russian impresario Serge Diaghilev formed a dance company in Paris known as "Les Ballets Russes."

A new documentary, *Ballets Russes*—to be screened this weekend at Cinecenta—tells about a time in the history of Les Ballets Russes, after the death of Diaghilev, when the company split in two. For anyone with even a passing interest in dance, the pre-show talk by former "de Basil Ballets Russes" dancer and soloist Bebe Eversfield is a must.

Eversfield is well-known in the Victoria dance community from the days when she ran her own highly successful ballet studio in town. Listening to her talk about her experiences in London opened my imagination up to a whole new chapter in the history of dance that I had, up until now, ignored. This petite woman seems ageless, and yet her career with Les Ballets Russes dates to the pre-war years.

Born in New Zealand, Eversfield was sent to London by her country's government for further training in ballet. She fell into the hands of a Russian ballet mistress whom she adored, and found her niche in the ballet world.

"I was considered a colonial," she says, "and my blond hair was contrary to the look a ballet dancer was supposed to have." Nevertheless, her incredible talent gained her the appreciation she deserved. At age 14, she was asked to replace Alicia Markova on the stage of the Royal Albert Hall, dancing the lead female role in the ballet *Faust*.

PROVIDED PHOTO

An Irish dancer performs in a Diaghilev ballet.

Eversfield's eyes light up with delight as she remembers the final act.

"There I was dancing to music being conducted by the great Sir Malcolm Sergeant, and *he* was following *me* as I did my 32 pirouettes around the circumference of the stage!"

The next day, the headlines in the paper were all about the 14-year old girl who had taken the Royal Albert Hall by storm. There was almost nothing written about the other dancers.

She tells about her audition for the de Basil company—and of how she was partnered for *les grands pas de deux* with Anton Dolin, the first English *premier danseur* of a Russian company. Eversfield then joined the company and was just about to go on tour with them when the war broke out.

The rest of her professional career is just as eclectic. As for the film documentary, Eversfield is quite excited to see on screen many of the faces she knew and worked with. Former dancers with the ballet companies, now octogenarians, were called upon to give interviews or to narrate some of the dance sequences from that extraordinary period of dance.

The film, Ballets Russes, *will be showing on March 12 and 13 at Cinecenta. Mrs. Eversfield will be speaking before the 7 p.m. screening on Sunday, March 12.*

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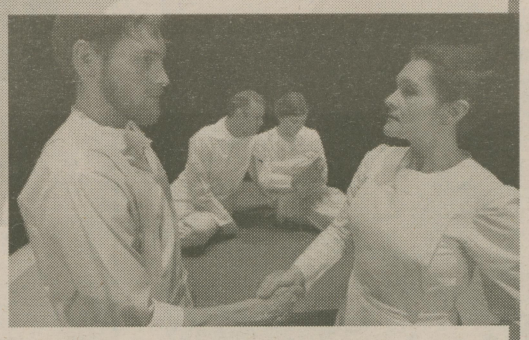
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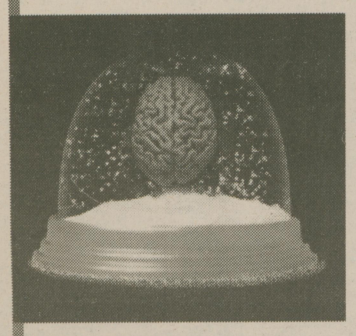
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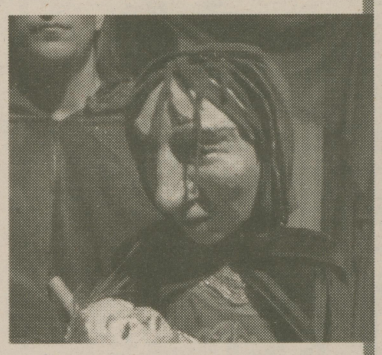
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MOVIE | DAVE CHAPPELLE'S BLOCK PARTY

Concert doc offers thoughtful entertainment

by Norman Ed Baskerville

Dave Chappelle's Block Party is both a fantastic concert documentary and a chronicle of African-American culture and community. The music is electric, and funnyman Chappelle is as clever and delightfully crude as always.

But the heart of the film is in candid interviews with hip-hop artists Jill Scott, Mos Def, Big Daddy Kane, Erykah Badu and the reunited Fugees, as well as thoughtful conversations with everyday people, including a marching band from Central State University, an historically black institution.

The concert is set in a Brooklyn neighbourhood, but the film's opening scenes follow Chappelle around his hometown of Dayton, Ohio as he gives away all-expenses-paid tickets to the "block party."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Talib Kweli plays to "5,000 black people, 19 white people."

Some of the funniest and most endearing moments are when Chappelle hands the golden Willy-Wonka-like tickets to his elderly, white Dayton neighbours. "You are doing something right when old people like you," he exclaims.

Thankfully, the film is not so feel-good that it avoids addressing the challenging reality of race relations and inner-city life. Chappelle visits a local daycare, a support centre that struggles to aid and educate underprivileged children and families. And during a scene in which cloud cover blankets the energetic outdoor concert, Chappelle plays bongo drums and quips, "5,000 black people chilling in the rain—19 white people peppered into the crowd. Trying to find a Mexican."

The packed theatre where I watched the film was populated largely by suburban white people, like me, appreciatively bobbing their heads and grooving to the stellar hip-hop performances.

With *Block Party*, director Michel Gondry and Chappelle pay homage to the 1972 concert film *Wattstax*, featuring a young Richard Pryor and Jesse Jackson. Their performance commemorates the 1965 Watts Riots in Los Angeles that killed 34 people, injured 1,100 more and caused an estimated $200 million in damage.

Chappelle, like his hero Pryor, takes on the comedian/MC role for the concert and documentary. But while *Wattstax* is primarily a socio-political argument, *Block Party* is foremost a joyous gathering of merriment and positivity.

After a rehearsal with the Dayton marching band, Wyclef Jean, who came penniless to America from Haiti, tells the band members not to blame white people for disadvantages in life, but instead to educate themselves and go after opportunity.

Block Party exudes warmth and festivity as both a celebration of community and a kind-hearted entertainment.

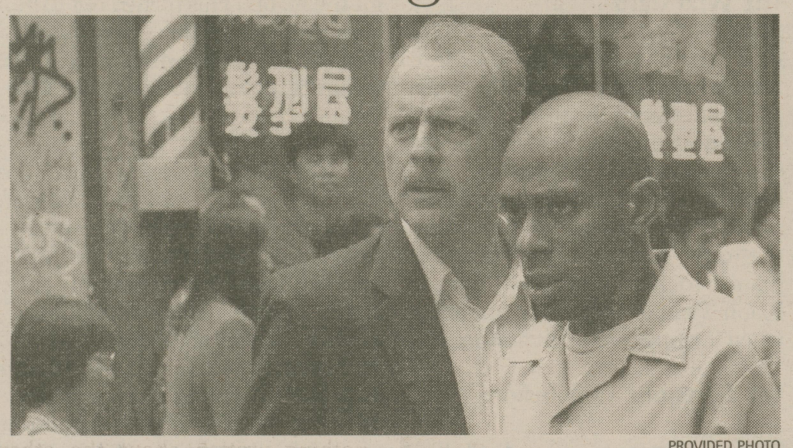
MOVIE | 16 BLOCKS

It's good, but not *Die Hard* good

by Marri Knadle

The plot is elegantly simple: a witness must be delivered 16 blocks from his holding cell to the courtroom where he is to testify. The chore is passed off to Jack Mosley (Bruce Willis), a cop with a limp and a drinking problem. The only challenges Mosley anticipates are New York traffic and his ward's grating chattiness.

Of course, a simple drive from A to B doesn't guarantee 105 minutes of entertainment, and the plot takes a sharp left turn early on. In the very first scene, we are shown a glimpse into the future, when Mosley begins to record his last will and testament on a bus surrounded by NYPD officers. The action leading to that moment is driven rather



PROVIDED PHOTO

than diminished by that glimpse, our suspense and anticipation heightened as the sequence of events falls neatly into place.

The situation blossoms into a layered thriller plot, but one simple enough for the casual viewer. However, there are no titanic splashes of gore or colossal explosions to indulge the moviegoer's bloodlust. With a PG-13 rating, the film relies on character interaction and uncertainty more than bloodshed to capture its audience.

There are subtle touches of humour and sentiment throughout, mostly delivered by witness Eddie Bunker (Mos Def) as a natural and seamless counterpoint to Jack Mosley's grizzled weariness. The optimist and the cynic, the jailbird and the cop, thrown together and stirred about with more than a dash of constabulary corruption. Moral forces are at work in *16 Blocks*, but they are presented with a clear-eyed realism. *16 Blocks* doesn't easily fall into one definable, predictable Hollywood niche. It's a refreshing deviation from films that sacrifice substance for blockbuster thrills and leave nothing to the imagination.

Director Richard Donner's (*Lethal Weapon*, *Superman*) action-thriller is buoyed by impressive acting—both honest and engaging, if not Oscar-worthy. The film's musical score is so understated that it's hardly memorable; a credit rather than a criticism, as *16 Blocks* is no place for the pomp and melodrama of Howard Shore or John Williams

Squeezing stark realism into a genre mould, *16 Blocks* pushes no cinematic envelopes, but its deceptively humdrum synopsis disguises a wholly worthwhile movie.

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Oscars' finale a swift kick to the crotch

by Briony Smith

This year's Academy Awards were almost great—a fresh non-Hollywood host, a gay cowboy montage, young presenters, and a relatively short running time were the makings of one of the best Oscars ever. They could have been great. They could have been a contender. Then along came *Crash*.

Here's our analysis of how it all went down.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Tiny troublemaker Jon Stewart hosted the show with surprising restraint, letting the many Oscar montages do the heavy lifting.

The Newbie

All Oscar hosts are the same, really. It's the delivery and quality of the jokes that make or break the Oscars, and Stewart made out well this year, his deadpan humour and cynicism a nice counterpoint to the more ingratiating turns from Crystal and Martin. Even when jokes fell flat, his slightly embarrassed tone made it easy to see that it wasn't his fault—it was the writers', yo! He also brought a *Daily Show* sensibility to the proceedings with a series of hilarious attack ads against various nominees ("Vote for someone with an American name: Reese Witherspoon"), and delightfully cynical comments.

The Big Surprise of the Night

Transamerica frontrunner Dolly Parton brought down the house with her decidedly un-Hollywood enthusiasm, while *Crash*'s tepid "In the Deep" was a painful reminder of song snoozers of years past. ("If you are trying to escape a burning car," said Stewart, "my advice would be not to move in slow motion.") Three Six Mafia's highly anticipated "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" from *Hustle & Flow* featured, unbelievably, a large "urban" cast alternately crunking like crazy and acting out pimping, rapping, and fighting. The performance was enough to make Oscar history—until Three Six Mafia actually won the Oscar. After an acceptance speech that put Cuba Gooding, Jr. to shame, Stewart said, "For those of you keeping track at home—Martin Scorsese, zero Oscars. Three Six Mafia, one."

Window Dressing

Rob Marshall, perpetrator of Oscar pretender *Chicago*, got a proper dressing down when *Memoirs of a Geisha* was shunned for the big nominations and only ended up scoring the minor-league awards for art direction, costume design, and cinematography. *Memoirs of a Geisha* lingered in development hell forever before it oozed messily from Marshall's ass. This is payback for your *Moulin Rouge!* afterthought Oscar, bitch.

Quote of the Evening

Dustin Hoffman, upon stumbling over his presenter speech, quipped, "It's much easier to act than to read these things."

The Wild Card

In a year of sure things, the Best Supporting Actress was the only possible question mark. Rachel Weisz was the main contender, although *Junebug*'s radiant (and unknown) Amy Adams deserved the award. Sure enough, Weisz won, the only highlight her pointed thanks to her "luminous" co-star Ralph Fiennes, who was snubbed when it came to the Oscar noms.

The Foregone Conclusions

Reese Witherspoon and Phillip Seymour Hoffman taking home the top acting honours was about as surprising as the evening's endless montages. There's nothing the Academy likes to reward more than comedic actresses taking on a dramatic biopic role. Witherspoon's acceptance speech, pitched somewhere between the Hilary-Swank-style reference to humble beginnings and tearful homage ("Like June Carter, I want to matter"), was cute enough, but, ultimately, forgettable—somewhat like Witherspoon's performance in *Walk the Line*.

The shy Hoffman forgetting to thank his girlfriend—who sat next to him all night—brought back the ghost of Swank's past, but his shout-out to his mom ("We made it to the party, Ma!") was sweet.

George Clooney's Oscar guarantee must have made it awkward for this year's pity invite, Paul Giamatti, whose nomination for *Cinderella Man*, an affront to his work in *American Splendor* and *Sideways*, must be as embarrassing as being fucked by the class nerd after the quarterback blows you off. Clooney was in top form, referring to his past as "Sexiest Man Alive, 1997" and Batman, and joking that now that he had landed the Best Supporting Actor award, he was done for the night. (This turned out to be prescient—his film *Good Night, and Good Luck*, while a critical favourite, got six noms but no Oscar.)

The Set-Up

For Oscar nerds, the Screenplay category is key to the awards' progression. Films that go in strong can come out with a lone writing Oscar as their booby prize (see: *Lost in Translation*). While *Capote* might have had a fighting chance in any other year, the *Brokeback Mountain* vs. *Crash* title fight was just warming up. Each had another nice award on their side—*Brokeback*'s score took the prize, and *Crash* landed editing honours. If only one had taken its writing award, there would be a good chance that the loser would take the crown—Director and Picture. But—gasp!—the field was muddied considerably when both won for writing: Best Adapted for *Brokeback*, and Best Original for *Crash*. Now, it was anyone's game.

Game, Set, and...?

The game tilted back in *Brokeback*'s favour with Ang Lee's Best Director win. It was doubly pleasing, rewarding him not only for the subtle, wonderful *Brokeback*, but for his admirable body of work, including *Eat Drink Man Woman*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *The Ice Storm*, and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. He was all smiles as usual and made a poignant dedication of his award to his recently deceased father. This win seemed to imply that *Brokeback Mountain* would take home the Best Picture title.

The "Noooooooooo!" Moment

And then came the kick in the crotch. *Brokeback Mountain*, a freaking shoo-in, gets passed over in favour of *Crash*, a Cole's Notes *Do the Right Thing*. It's Disney does racism—contrived and coincidence-filled with a message so loud and clear (EVERYONE IS RACIST) that watching it could cause deafness.

After a relatively pleasing Oscars, watching idiot-savant Paul Haggis wave his award around was horrific, the pain worsening at the sight of Lee clutching his Best Director Oscar, now only a cruel consolation prize. It was the mightiest of crotch-punts—even Best-Picture presenter Jack Nicholson raised his hands in bafflement.

Crash's win, like that sick feeling in the pit of your stomach, ruins everything—both now and for many Oscar nights to come.

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Vikes topple UBC

UVic takes Canada West championship and hands the T-Birds two losses, tarnishing UBC's nearly flawless season

by Megan Stewart

With an 84–74 win over the Canada West conference favourites, the UBC Thunderbirds, the Vikes head to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships as the top seed from the west.

In the 10-point victory March 4, UVic handed the T-Birds their second loss on a nearly perfect season. UBC's first loss came in the best-of-three Pacific Division final as the Vikes won the second game in overtime.

"We are now just one of the 10 teams in Halifax [for the CIS national title]," said head coach Craig Beaucamp, "and it's anyone's game."

The conference final was evenly matched, but it may have been the Vikes defence that made all the difference. Over the course of the regular season, UBC sharpshooter Pasha Bains averaged more than 20 points per game. The Vikes held him to about half that in the conference final, allowing Bains just 12 points.

The teams were evenly matched, but UBC got off to a quick start in the first half with a 10–2 run. The streak was stopped by Brandon Ellis who topped off a defensive board with a three-point play at the other end.

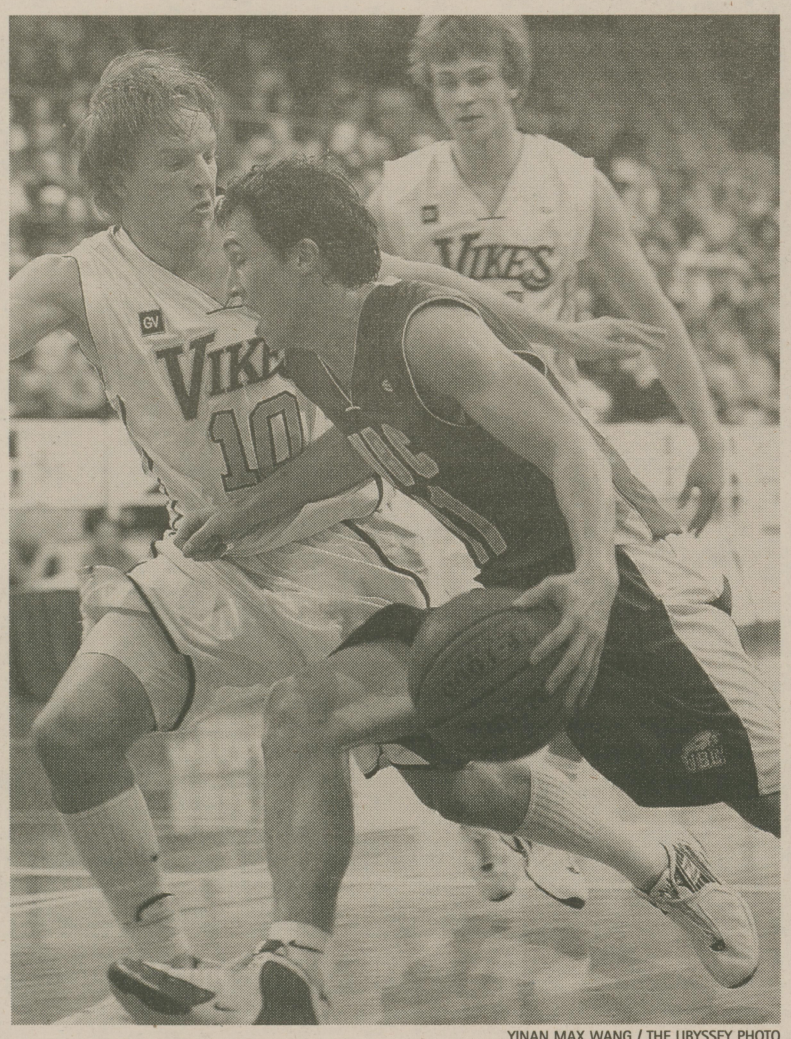
The Vikes closed the gap and Jacob Doerksen, Canada West rookie of the year, dropped an outside shot for three. UBC led at the half 34–31.

The three-point festival continued and Ellis, who was five for eight from behind the arc, helped keep the Vikes ahead of the T-Birds.

The Vikes held on to the victory for the Canada West conference trophy.

Ellis had 22 points and five boards; Doerksen marked 18 points and seven boards; Chris Trumpy, named to the all-star team, totalled 14 points, 11 boards and seven assists. Tyler Hass was named Canada West defensive player of the year.

The Vikes, UBC Thunderbirds and the University of Saskatchewan Huskies all move on from the Canada West finals to the CIS championships March 16 to 19 in Halifax. The draw will be announced March 12.



YINAN MAX WANG / THE UBYSSEY PHOTO

Brandon Ellis, who had 22 points in the win, slows his UBC check.

Soccer friendly gets fierce

MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

Canadian soccer luminary Kara Lang (left) gets held up and hauled down by Dutch defender Petra Hogewoning, in an exhibition match March 5 at Centennial Stadium. Canada won the game 3–1.

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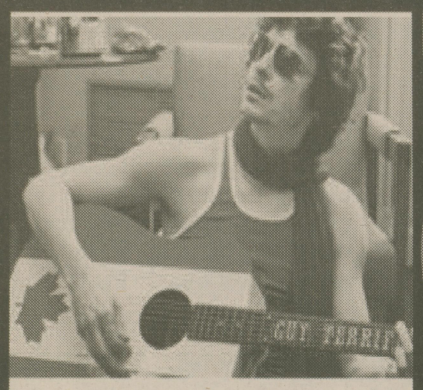

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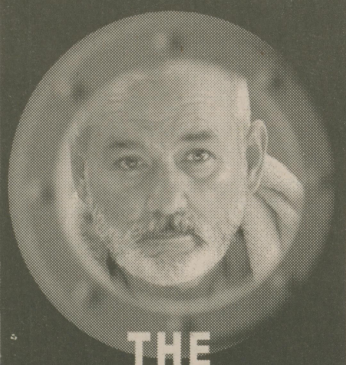

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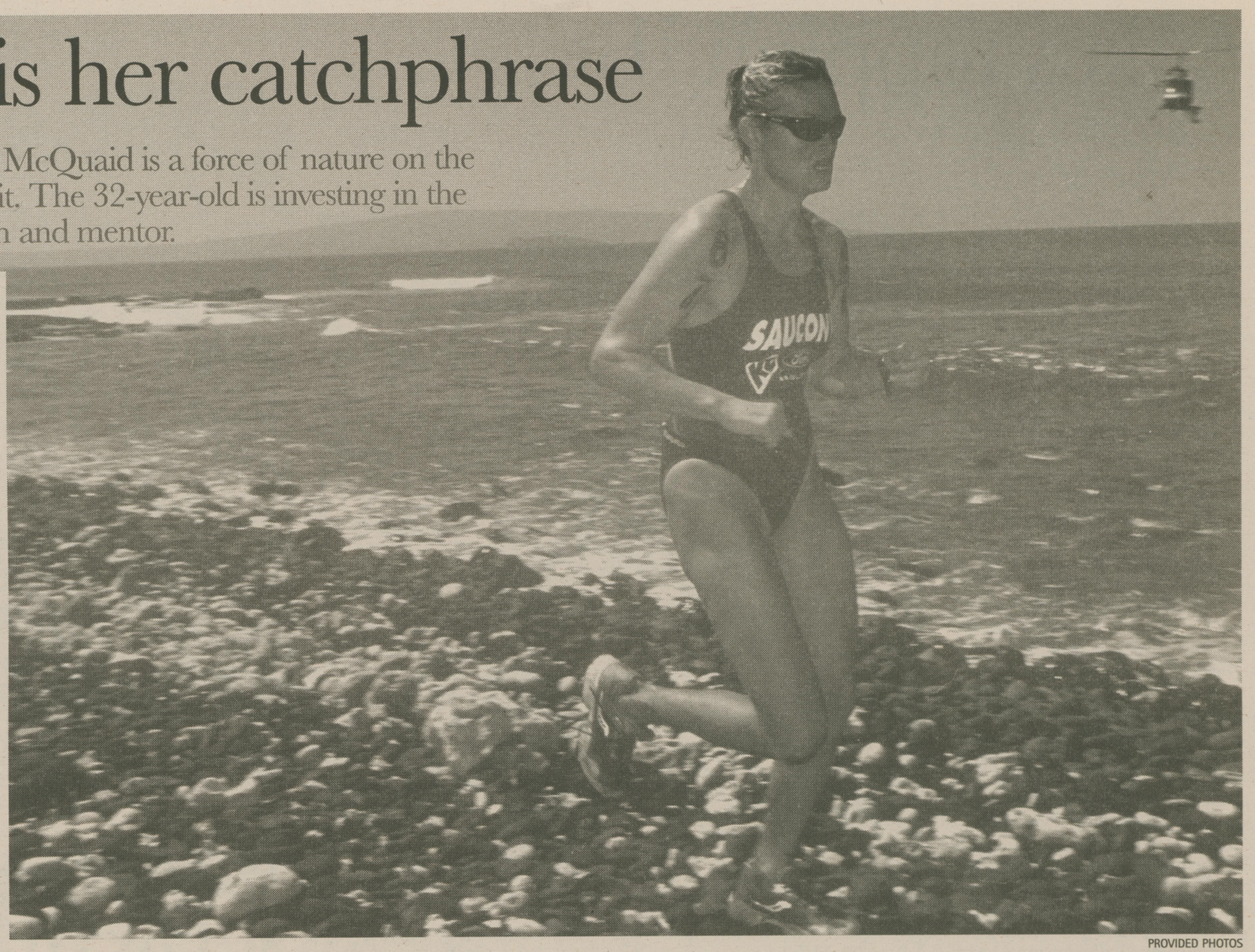
Legacy is her catchphrase

UVic alumna Melanie McQuaid is a force of nature on the extreme triathlon circuit. The 32-year-old is investing in the sport's future as a coach and mentor.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Two-time Xterra champion and record holder, Melanie McQuaid runs along the Maui shoreline in 2003 under the gaze of a helicopter and below she takes the lead in the mountain bike leg before claiming the win in Virginia in 2004.

by Jessica Earle

At age 11, Melanie McQuaid was in and out of the pool by 6:30 a.m. before her younger brothers were even out of bed.

The two-time Xterra champion and record holder—who has twice swum the 1,500 metres, mountain-biked the 30 kilometres and ran the 10 kilometres of the extreme triathlon to victory—has incessant drive. With a self-described obsessive personality, McQuaid says she found her outlet in competition.

"When I was in my early 20s, I was super Type A intense and neurotic, and now I'm like, super Type A and intense and mellow." She paused and laughed. "That's the difference."

Growing up in Nanaimo, "she was rarely home," said her younger brother Shawn. "She was busy doing her own thing all the time and was a constant over-achiever."

McQuaid's main training partner and a member of Canada's Commonwealth squad, Errine Willock, says the Victoria resident trains "rain or shine and gives it all she's got."

Success as free advertising

McQuaid, now one of the strongest cyclists on the Xterra circuit, started mountain biking in the '90s, during her third year at UVic. She had no experience except for a race around Shawnigan Lake on her dad's bike in high school, but she soon found herself working up through the ranks at a startling pace.

Considering medical school at that point, she struggled to commit to both disciplines but opted for the rocky terrain of extreme sport. In 1995 she went to the Canada Games for road racing and, in the next year, made the national mountain biking team. What ensued was an illustrious, decade-long cycling and mountain-biking career.

"She was hell-bent on becoming an athlete," said Shawn, adding that funding from sponsorships has only recently begun rolling in. "Before the last couple of years it was kind of painful seeing her not make a lot of money, chasing something without a lot of financial benefit behind it."

Today, McQuaid is as well-known for her ambassadorship as her race results and she has worked as a television and radio personality and a publicist, and has appeared in numerous advertising campaigns for everything from running shoes and sunscreen to bike parts and salon services. In her brother's words, McQuaid fulfills all the roles herself. "She's her own boss, her self-promoter, her news anchor."

She's comfortable in the public eye and churns out sound bites, works through reporters, and openly discloses personal growth and personality flaws with a veteran's ease. She said she makes her living as "a soft public-relations campaign" where she is the companies' living advertisement, but she believes the unexpected marketing skills and PR gigs will be useful in finding "a real job" when she retires from the pro circuit sometime around 2008.

The downside to her busy schedule is that she frequently over-commits herself. Like her pre-teen years when she was up before dawn to practice, McQuaid said her drive borders on fanatical. She said that before a race day she craves distraction so she is unable think about the event, the competition and the chance she may sabotage herself from giving it her all.

"I need to be very busy, otherwise I obsess. So I tend to fill my life with lots of extra stuff, which is advantageous because it makes me a valuable athlete, but sometimes . . . I really need to settle down and focus."

Unlike her 2003 Xterra win, where she can't remember crossing the finish line and ended up in medical care, her 2005 win was one of her racing highs. Most of her family came to see her and they shared wine the night before the race. McQuaid said this ritual means she can relax, have fun with people and be in the moment.

"If I did everything puritanically correct, I would be so obsessing about everything that would happen because I'd be over-thinking. So for me, I just distract myself up until the very last minute, and it doesn't take me very long to just be there right in the moment."

Xtremely ambassadorial

McQuaid emphasized that she is nearing the end of her career as a professional athlete, but her future goals remain embedded in sport.

In 1998 she started Racegirl Foundation, a nonprofit that advocates health and wellness to school-aged children and women—a cause that strikes a personal note. She lived with an eating disorder in her late teens and early twenties and said at one point she "struggled with everything" and had little self-esteem. "I would be frustrated all the time, for how much I was exercising I just wasn't getting lean enough.

From his view as her coach, Patrick Kelly believes McQuaid has had an important impact and is opening doors for fellow and future women extreme athletes.

"Melanie has been leading the way and is a pioneer," he said.

Involved with the expansion of Victoria's Pacific Sport Institute, McQuaid, a rumoured candidate for the 2008 Olympics, is also keen to leave her mark. "The more I'd like to be involved . . . with leaving some sort of legacy of sport in Victoria," she said.

Up first, however is the U..S triathlon series and defending her world title of Xterra champ.

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Chasing snow, chasing gold

Paralympic ski racer and UVic alumna looks for Vancouver 2010 to put disabled sport in the limelight

by Megan Stewart

PROVIDED PHOTO

Lauren Woolstencroft earned her electrical engineering degree in November. This month she goes for gold in alpine skiing at the Paralympic Games in Torino.

Lauren Woolstencroft will tell you there are a surprising number of similarities between being a woman on the ski racing circuit and being a woman in UVic's engineering department.

Both, she said, feed on competition, and both are male dominated.

"To get through any degree you need a lot of determination and focus," said Woolstencroft, who graduated in November. "I take a lot of what I've learned in skiing and use those skills in a different way, but a lot of those are mental skills I've applied to getting my degree."

Before she begins work with BC Hydro in June, Woolstencroft, 24, will contend for no less than four gold medals at the Paralympic Games in Torino. She is the current World Cup champion in alpine ski racing and holds three Paralympic medals from Salt Lake City in 2002.

"To do all this in both disciplines is a real accomplishment—it's not something one can do easily," said one of Woolstencroft's professors, Pan Agatholklis, chair of the electrical and computer engineering department. "She was rather quiet, but as a person you could see that she had a balanced personality. She is a person who looks to her academics and has a wider view of life and can take on challenges and do well."

A member of the Canadian disabled alpine ski team since 1998, Woolstencroft was raised on skis and has navigated the slopes since the age of four. Originally from Calgary, she said she's partial to mountains in the Banff and Lake Louise area, but she grew up in the hills near Whitefish, Montana. Despite her disability—she was born missing both legs below the knee and her left arm below the elbow—Woolstencroft doesn't remember a time when she didn't ski.

"I was pretty young when I started skiing," she said Feb. 22 before leaving for Italy to compete in an international meet leading up to the Games. "My whole family skied, so it was pretty natural that I started skiing as well."

Now, as a Candian Paralympian, she "chases the snow, wherever it is."

She was fitted for prosthetics at an early age, but says the synthetic limbs took some getting used to.

"My parents were really keen on getting me into [prosthetics] as soon as possible, because I had to get used to them," she said. "It's definitely a process. [While you're] growing, you're constantly getting refitted and getting new ones. I'm lucky now that I'm not growing—it's not so much a process anymore, but from very, very early I was with them."

A long-time member of the War Amps, Woolstencroft sees the organization and her connection to it as a means to lead by example. A "good forum to share success and achievement," as she puts it, the War Amps offers role models for kids and teenagers, and some peace of mind for their parents.

While reluctant to consider herself a role model, Woolstencroft is changing the face of alpine disabled skiing in Canada.

As a competitive force on the international circuit, she draws attention to the sport and encourages girls and young women to strap into a pair of skis. With comparatively less funding and attention given to the Paralympics than the Olympics, Woolstencroft's winning streak and her CBC-designated "Golden Girl" status will only help the sport grow.

"We're always needing more people to come up and be competitive and raise the standard. I've seen a big improvement, but it definitely needs to go further—especially on the women's side."

With quadriplegic Vancouver mayor Sam Sullivan making a highly publicized appearance at the Torino Games, Woolstencroft says the Paralympics and disabled sports will get the attention they deserve.

In terms of competitors, however, she realizes the inherent limitations.

"There are only so many people out there with a disability. And there are only so many in that group who will be interested in skiing and only so many in that group who will have the potential to be great ski racers."

Vancouver 2010 will be the first Paralympic Games on Canadian soil, and Woolstencroft, who has yet to decide if she'll compete, has high expectations for the host nation.

The Games run March 10 to 19 and Woolstencroft races more or less every other day.

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COLUMN | THE SPORT OF TALK

The politics of our national sport

Is hockey or lacrosse Canada's official game? It depends on the season.

by Iain Jeffrey

It's a big year for international sport, and Canada will compete on the global stage in an event that only rolls around once every four years.

No, I don't mean the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Italy.

And Canada didn't qualify for this summer's World Cup of Soccer in Germany.

London, Ont. will host the 2006 World Lacrosse Championships in July. More than 20 countries will be represented at the quadrennial tournament that will crown the global field lacrosse champion.

In Canada the history of our national sport is unparalleled for its depth and uniqueness.

Lacrosse has been played in North America, beginning in what is now Ontario and Quebec, since the 15th century, and is a distinct aspect of the continent's aboriginal cultures. Lacrosse helped warriors keep fit and was even used to settle disputes between tribes. Games would often be contested on a field up to one mile long with hundreds of participants battling for each side.

European settlers were predictably fascinated by the intensity and scale of the games. The sport provides an example of settlers adopting the customs of the established peoples and is an important aspect of early Canadian identity.

Ottawa declared lacrosse the national sport of the Dominion of Canada in 1859, eight years before Confederation. Modern field lacrosse was exported from Canada to the U.S., England, Australia and, eventually, the rest of the globe. It's the game with the deepest Canadian roots.

Lacrosse was also one of the first sports to experiment with night games. In 1880 a match was contested under lights in Montreal with phosphorous added to the ball and the players' numbers to help fans follow the play.

But when it comes down to it, we all know that hockey is the only sport that *really* matters in Canada. Somewhere along the line, after the 19th century became the 20th, hockey became Canadians' favoured sport.

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

To compete, box lacrosse was born and gained some support throughout the country. Like hockey, box lacrosse is contested in a relatively confined space surrounded by boards and glass. Box lacrosse and hockey are similarly fast and physical games that (to a certain extent) permit fighting.

The National Sport Act of 1994 acknowledged both sports when it proclaimed hockey Canada's official winter sport and lacrosse Canada's official summer sport. Reading between the lines, one can tell that this act of government acknowledges Canada's most popular sport, hockey, and its official national sport, lacrosse.

With all this history and Canadiana, we Canadians must dominate the sport globally, right? Well, Canada's first-ever Olympic medal, a gold in lacrosse, came in 1904. But here's the bad news: lacrosse is not a perennial Olympic sport. It has appeared as a demonstration sport at various summer games throughout the 20th century but with little consistency and a lack of Canadian dominance.

Even worse for Canuck patriots is the fact that since the inception of the world championship in the '60s, Canada has won the field lacrosse title only once. The win came in 1978 with a shocking 24–3 victory in the final over the heavily favoured Americans. The Americans have won the title every other year.

Now that the Olympics are over, the Paralympics are just beginning and the World Cup of Soccer will be finished in early July, you can think of our national team as they host the globe in the World Lacrosse Championships. Just cross your fingers that the home team can put up a good fight as our neighbours to the south look to continue their dominance of our national sport.

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Join Kidney Foundation volunteers canvassing in a neighbourhood near where you live for 2 hours in the month of March. The monies you raise benefit Kidney Patient Services, Medical Research, and Organ Donor Awareness Programs. Contribute to the wellness and betterment of your community! To volunteer or donate, please contact March Drive Coordinator Laurie Rubin @ 995-2696 or e-mail lrubin@shaw.ca.

Gain teaching experience. Wild ARC wild animal rehabilitation centre in Victoria is seeking volunteers that can contribute to the development and delivery of education programs to local schools. Email info@wildarc.ca.

WANTED AND APPRECIATED: volunteer childcare assistants at Kiwanis House playing with children while their parents participate in life skills, parenting and pre-employment training creating a better life for themselves and their children. Contact Rachel Calder at 382-1004 or khp@youthoutreach.ca.

Seize the moment - new skills, new friends and new opportunities — Volunteer Opportunities at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary—Nature Interpreter with school groups and Nature House Receptionist. For more information call 479-0211 or email: volunteer@swanlake.bc.ca.

BE AN IN-SCHOOL MENTOR Mentor a student in an elementary school 1 hour/week. Play games, sports, cook, read, do arts and crafts and other fun activities. Call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 475-1117 bonnie@bbbsvictoria.com.

ON CAMPUS

THE NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP - MARCH MEETING Join Rick Searle for thoughts and ideas on land stewardship, environmental ethics and education for preserving native plants in our area. Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 7 p.m. UVic, MacLaurin Bldg, Rm D-116. Non member drop-in fee: $2. For more info contact 595-5820.

The University Women's Club welcomes university graduates from around the world. Please join us Wednesday March 15th, 7:30 p.m., Clerihue Building Room A127 to hear consultant Clint Nickerson, part-time producer for Global National with Kevin Newman and former Project Manager/News Director with The New VI. His speech is titled, "Media is a Plural Word."

Are you an Arnold Schwarzenegger Fan? I am a visual artist who is asking Arnold fans to contact me with information about themselves and their relationship with Arnold. haileyisnever@shaw.ca

"A Buddhist View on Freedom of Speech: Conflict - Dialogue ^ Enlightenment" by the UVic SGI Buddhist Student Club - 6 p.m. Monday March 13, B025, Student Union Building basement.

SEX TOY WORKSHOP! Friday, March 10th 7:00 sharp SUB B025 Bring your questions, concerns and an open mind as you navigate the exciting world of sex toys! All genders welcome. Contact AVP for more info or to reserve a spot: avp@uvss.uvic.ca or 472-4388

Expect to have an Effect: Peer Advocacy Workshop Presenter: Rebecca Taylor and Ros Salvador. Contact:Rebecca wcentre@uvss.uvic.ca .Time slot: B 10:00-11:30 Wednesday March 15th .

Advocacy is about addressing issues of power imbalances. It seeks to challenge the status quo of oppressive systems, structures or attitudes that perpetuate injustice and marginalization. An advocate is someone who helps people help themselves in feeling heard, being actively supported and achieving a desired change in their lives. They educate people about their rights and some options that might be available to them. The peer advocacy workshop will answer the following questions: What is advocacy? What is social policy? How does it affect the lives of individuals? Why is advocacy necessary to promote social change? What tools are needed? How can I get involved? Time: 4-5:30 on Tuesday, March 14th, in the Michelle Pujol Room of the SUB. This workshop is a part of the festival for Action in Communi-Ties (fACT). For more info: academics@uvss.uvic.ca or 721-8367

SERVICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

5 dollars for a chance...A benefit concert to support HIV/AIDS and maternal health project in Tanzania and Benin Friday, March 10th, 9 p.m. Steamers (570 Yates Street) Tickets $5 in advance, $8 a door. 5achance@gmail.com ashley.heaslip@gmail.com www.workingtoempower.or

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Island Montessori Family Carnival and with Silent Auction. Saturday, May 27, 2006 at Doncaster Elementary School -1525 Rowan St. Time 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is Free with tickets starting at twenty-five cents and up for prize venues and games. Fun children games, bouncy castle, BBQ, bake sale and so much more. For more information please phone 514-9391.

Do you have a project idea that would help your community? United Way is seeking proposals for its Youth Initiatives Grants. Visit www.unitedwayvictoria.bc.ca or call 385-6708 for details.

Victoria Queer Parents is a parenting group for members of the GLBT community in southern Vancouver Island who are considering becoming parents, are expecting, or are parenting babies and toddlers. The group meets regularly in Victoria. For more information, contact us by email: victoriaqueerparents@yahoo.ca.

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Is your life affected by someone's drinking? Help is available in the Victoria area. Call 383-4020 for more information or visit www.bcyukon-al-anon.org for more information.

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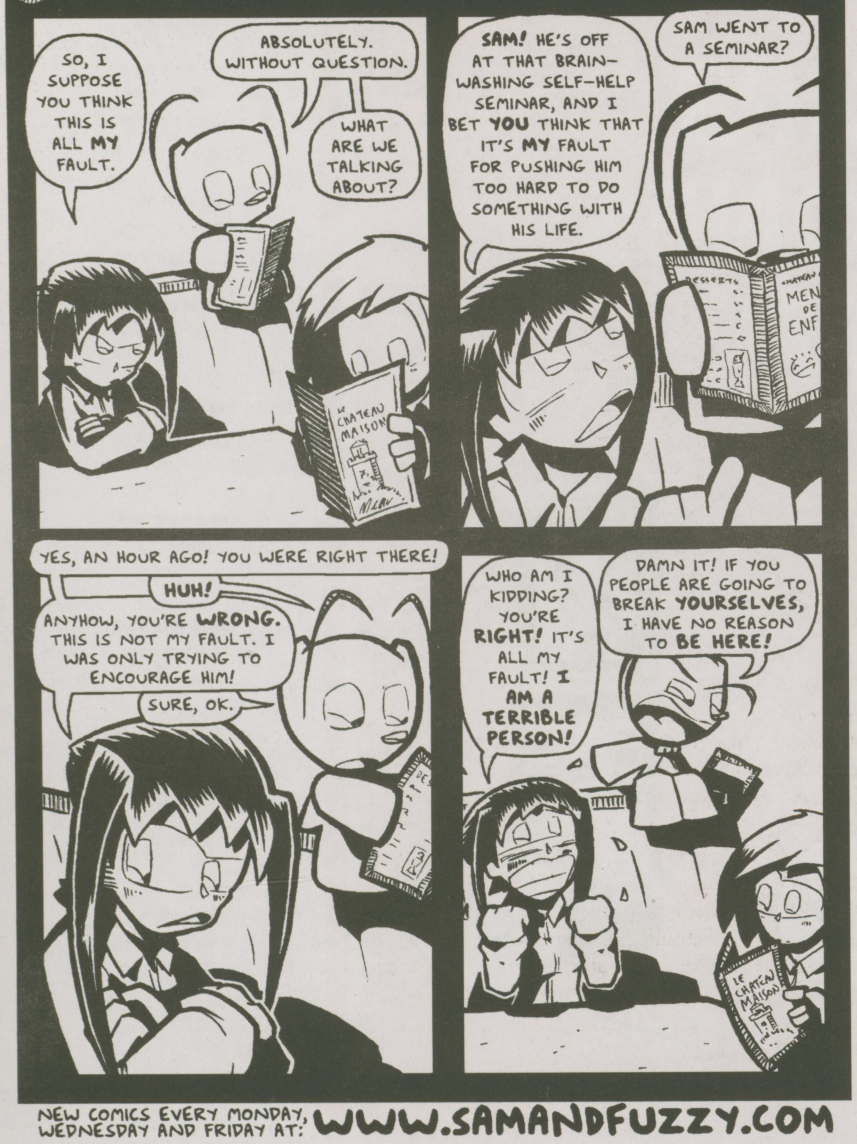

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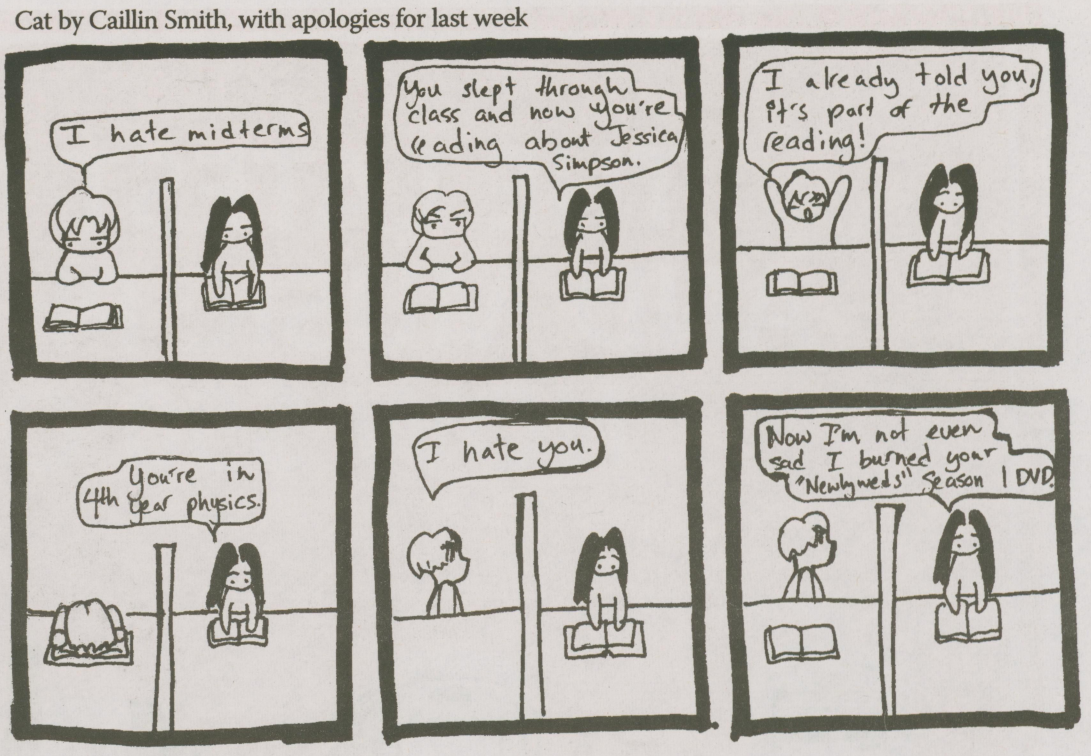
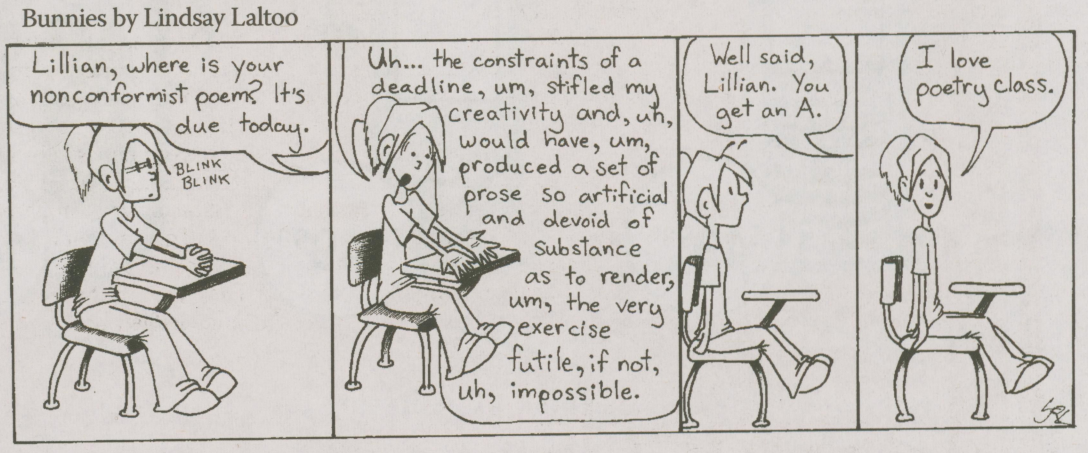
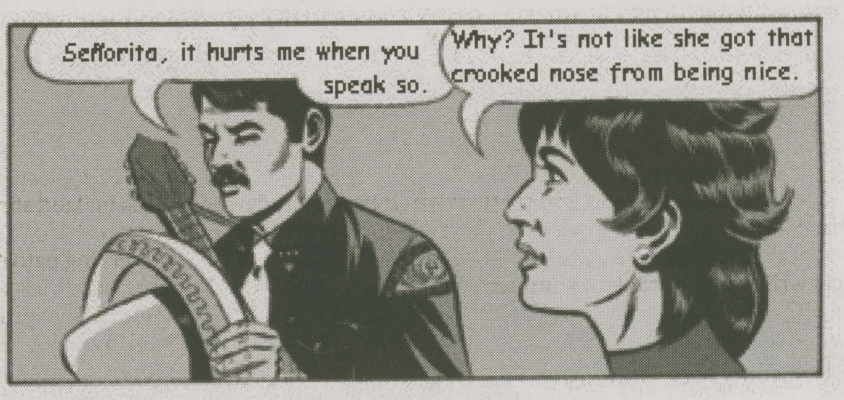


Bunnies by Lindsay Laltoo





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